

Rec'd. and. Augt. 30th

Botanic Garden & Nursery Newburgh 28: Aug. '33.

Dear Sir

I acknowledge with the greatest pleasure the receipt of your favor of the 22nd and cannot ^{express} my gratification at the commencement of a correspondence with one who holds ^{such a} prominent place among the friends of science in America. — — —

The information with regard to the Dionea that you was so kind as to communicate I shall take immediate advantage of and we are anxious to obtain a considerable supply. The treatise by Heath you are so good as to offer I shall be very much pleased to see — McNab is as you say a distinguished cultivator — his treatise is spoken very highly of by the European periodicals and I believe no copies have yet reached this country.

Speaking of books I take the opportunity to say that nothing could afford me greater gratification than to look over your Botanical library & herbarium — Foreign Botanical literature is ^{so} comparatively scarce in this country that I feel it quite a ~~feast~~ to meet with a good collection. We are anxious to open a correspondence & exchange with some first-rate Botanic Garden in Europe. — perhaps with Dr. Graham the celebrated ^{professor} at Edinburgh

whom you speak so highly of. I think we can yet send over some species of indigenous plants that will be interesting. It is so difficult to keep many of our American plants particularly Orchidea that they are often lost in European Botanic Gardens & their stock requires replenishing. Perhaps if it will not be presuming too much I may trouble you hereafter for an introduction. — — — We should be much pleased to become acquainted with some scientific gentleman in the southern states who could furnish us with an annual supply of seeds of the following of Magnolias. — *M. cordata* — *macrophylla* — *grandiflora* — *anisicarpa* — any or all of them. If you should meet with any one of this description please collect us.

In conclusion I have the honor to subscribe myself

Very sincerely

Yours.

Andrew. J. Downing

Ans. March 18th

Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh - 11th March. 34

My dear Dr.

Absence from home when your last kind favor came to hand must be my apology for not answering it before. The introductory letter you was so good as to send me I forwarded with an accompanying one of my own to Dr. Graham. in the first Despatch packet. I notice with a great deal of pleasure your offer to assist us. in an acquaintance with the Secretaries of the London Hort. Soc. It is an ~~institution~~ which of all others we are desirous of cultivating a correspondence as from the fine collection they have amassed at Chiswick they are able if so disposed to contribute many things which cannot be obtained from other sources. The Garden of the Society (we have ~~their~~ ^{their} ~~first~~ catalogue) contains the best collection I find in the world & my ~~brother~~ brother is particularly anxious next winter to have some grafts from them. Douglas' collecting of North-West plants &c as you know also make their first appearance in the garden of the Society. If you are writing to Prof. Lindley or Mr. Bentham have the kindness to recollect us. & I should be very happy to enter into a direct correspondence with these gentlemen. It is very likely that I may be able to do them some service in a Horticultural way. You speak of your intention of spending the summer at Princeton — it is probable that I may thereafter trouble

you with some few notes of desiderata for the barrens.

Apropos of Dr Gray. Tell him to send 2 copies of the \$5 edition (printed title page index &c) to the Steam-boat Providence post of Warren, N.Y. on or before Saturday afternoon next when she leaves for Newburgh. ^{please} I have instructed the Capt. to pay the amount which he will tell the bearer to ask for. I am delighted to see a regular illustrative work on these difficult natural orders & I hope to dispose of some more copies for Dr Gray when I shall begin to see more of my botanical friends as the spring opens. If Dr Gray would have the goodness to recollect me in the way of seeds, living-plants &c when on his southern tour I should be very grateful.

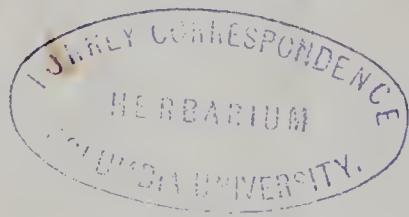
Mr Nuttall's intended journey was really news to me — I suppose he will make a pretty thorough investigation of our rich western regions. Do you know whether he is still connected with the Cambridge (Mass) Botanic garden & chair? Has Prof. Lindley's "Introduction to Botany" published last year found its way to this country yet? It is spoken so highly of as an elementary work that I am rather anxious to see it.

I have just received a M. of Sionas &c per Dr McRea ^{your} of Wilmington for whom acquaintance I feel also obliged to)

You speak of Mrs. Tracy's desire to have a few plants for
her flower stand in the parlor — I suppose of course you
refer to green-house plants — Our collection in this department
is ~~not~~ so much in its infancy that we have published no catalog
as yet. If there are no particular species which Mrs. T. would
desire I should be pleased to send down by our Newburgh boat
a few which would be ornamental this spring — as to prices
we can talk about that when next I see you.
I shall be pleased to hem you the first interval of leisure.

Very sincerely yours.

A. J. Downing



100

Dr. A. J. Tarry
Professor of Chemistry H. C. Battany
30 Mc: Donald St.
New York

New-York

and verbally

Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh 21. April 34

INDENCE

UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir

In the last letter which I had the pleasure of receiving from you, you expressed a probability of being in this neighborhood in the course of 2 or 3 weeks in which case you would call on me. Thinking to see you in person I have until this time delayed answering your query concerning the correspondence with the Secretary of the Land. Natl Soc. You ask me which of the two gentleman Prof. Lin. day or Mr. Bentham I should prefer corresponding with. The fact is it would make no difference to us in any other way than that ^{would} we ~~are~~ be pleased to communicate with that one who will from his knowledge, interest in the cause &c be most likely to facilitate our & his own views. Perhaps you from acquaintance with these gentlemen can decide better than we are able to do. It is now too late in

the season for us to forward any thing either in the
shape of trees or herbaceous plants to Europe this
Spring but if we could through an early correspondence
be made acquainted with their desiderata we might
probably as you are aware have a considerable ^{quantity} that
would be acceptable ready for exportation early in the
autumn. We are certain that we have some
varieties of fruit in the nursery that would be highly
acceptable to the Society. I shall therefore be much
pleased to open a correspondence in the way an at the
time you think proper & when it meets your leisure
to prepare the introductory letter &c.

Please recollect the two copies of Dr Grays work
that I engaged in my last & send them in the
manner there directed or by any other method you
choose. I should be pleased to have them as soon
as is convenient. Allow me to ask has the Lycum
designated a naturalist to accompany the western

expedition yet. If he should be a person so disposed
he might ~~make~~ a most interesting collection of Seeds
& living plants for botanic Gardens — I think
that this latter circumstance has been by far too
much neglected by our travelling botanists & nat-
-urists. — Please write me when you have a
few leisure moments, to spare & allow me to thank
you for the many favors I have already received from
you. —

Most truly yours.

A. J. Downing

... Do you leave N York with your family this
Summer?

Dr. J. J. Vories
Professor of Chemistry & Botany
No. 30 MacDougal St.
New York

And at Princeton
July 7th

Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh 9th June 1836

WINTER CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIAN UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir

Allow me to enquire of you whether or not you know any thing of the Sarracenia heterophylla which Eaton speaks of in his Manual. If, as he says it is really a distinct species I am anxious to procure it. Do you know any other locality than the one he mentions (Northampton Mass.) or can you direct me to any person in that place of whom I could procure it?

If you see or are writing to Dr. Gray you will oblige me greatly by reminding him of my 2 copies of his (Gramineæ & Cyperaceæ) which I engaged of him. They would really be an acquisition to me at this present moment.

I hope you received the little box of plants I sent down to you the day you was here. If the Escholtzia californica which it contained did not grow I can furnish you with plenty of young seedling plants now. It is such an interesting plant to the Natural System Student that I presume you will cultivate it by all means.

When you think proper to prepare the way between the Hort. Society
& myself I am ready. I intend to send you a bouquet of our
beautiful collection of Roses to exhibit to Mrs. T. as soon as
they are fully in bloom which will probably be the latter part of
the week. Excuse this hasty scrap.

Very sincerely yours

A. J. Downing

P.S. Would it be asking too great a favor of you ~~to send~~ and
request you to send Hookers Bot. Miscellany (which you had the
kindness to ~~promise~~ to loan me) on board the Newburgh Steam boat
Providence on Wednesday next? I shall probably give you a
hasty call in the course of 10 or 12 days when I could return it.

Quid. Sept. 1st

Recd. Aug 1st 39. - with a basket of fruit.

Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh 28th July 1834

UNIVERSITY
HERBARIUM
CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir I acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of yours
of day before yesterday — The parcel you were so kind as
to send me via Auburn came all safe & in good time
but I was then absent for a couple of days at Goshen &
Montgomery in this County and had not therefore the pleasure
of writing you immediately as I should have done. I was
however upon the point of doing so yesterday when I received
your last — but upon the receipt of it concluded that I
might defer doing so until to day when I might at the same
time forward the accompanying basket which I hope you will
gratify me by accepting. I confess the little note which ~~you~~
last enclosed was really quite a relief — for I was much puzzled
& rather amused at the package of seeds (for which by the way
allow me most sincerely to thank you) you sent me at first. I
was quite puzzled inasmuch as they were neither labelled nor
accompanied by an explanation from you — & quite amused by
the singular manner in which they had been put up. After
much conjecture however I concluded that you must have
enclosed them in my package by mistake & was heartily glad
to find that it turns out to be such an excellent collection
I shall immediately put them up in fresh papers & pack them
away from the air until next Spring as it is now too

late to plant them this season. When when they gathered? Judging from the region in which they were collected I anticipate not only a good many interesting sp. not known in our gardens but also several that will be new to the Botanist. I am most happy to receive the first proof that I am to be your gardener. I well may dare that our botanists would find it to their advantage to pay more attention to the introduction & dissemination of the seeds of rare & interesting sp. as well as to confine their attention to dried specimens alone. It is as you are aware owing the attention to this circumstance by the Botanists of Europe that their Bot. Gardens are so rich. Witness the Asiatic collection of seeds sent to England within 2 or 3 years past by Dr Wallich of Calcutta. When this is the case instead of a few inferior specimens in the herbaria of a botanist here I think good specimens might always be obtained from the botanic gardens of our own country & neighborhood. Excuse this little digression but I have thought that ^{you might} sometimes impress it upon the memory of some of your many botanical friends.

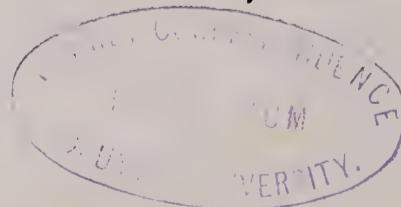
You mention that you expected a call from me on hearing that I was in town from Mr Hogg. It was my ~~mother~~ whom he saw as I have not been down since I called at your house myself.

The letters to Prof. Lindley & Mr Le Conte I have many thanks

to you for your kindness in furnishing them) made use of.
You can form no idea unless you have lately been out of town
how very dry the country is at present — our smaller
plants are suffering quite severely although we are watering
such as feel it most sensibly. Among the farmers complaining
are making respecting the pasture fields & the crop of corn
it is found will be small & potatoes very scarce small &
poor. I understand you have had more rain lately in W. York.

— I am sorry to have given you so much trouble about
the Bot. Miscellany. Do not ~~put~~ yourself to any inconvenience
respecting it only I should ^{much} be pleased to receive it when you can
conveniently put it in my power. The botanical tracks Mr. Austin
Sons I have been much delighted with & return them to day.
The difficulty of getting hold of any thing of the kind out of
the City makes the appetite very keen & I am always most thankful
for anything to devour. I shall hold myself in readiness to
accompany you to N. Jersey but venture to hope for the
benefit of my own ~~engagements~~ that Dr. Gray will not be
ready before the middle of September. Most truly yours

A. J. Downing



Dr. John Jones
Professor of Chemistry & Physiology
30 Meadow St.
New York

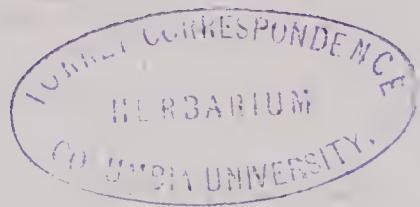


P.S. There is a curious thing mentioned in one of our late foreign Horticultural magazines. It is the cultivation of plants in close glazed boxes without the admission of air or supply of water, as practised by a gentleman ~~in~~ London with much success. The lower part of the box is made water tight & the upper part is a glazed lid which may be taken off. The lower part is filled with a mixture of stones, moss, & soil & the seeds or plants are properly sown or planted after which the contents are copiously watered the superfluous part of which is drained off by a plug in the bottom. — This plug is then closed & the glazed lid is firmly put on & the box receives no water for several months and in the case of some sp. for a year or more. The only admission of air which is given is caused by the change of temperature forcing out & drawing in fresh supplies. Upwards of 50 species of ferns have been beautifully grown in this way & the idea has occurred to me that you might have a pretty & most curious rock-work in miniature in this way: the small & nicely apportioned pieces of rock interspersed with soil being in the first place disposed in a moderately large box & the seeds of some of the most beautiful ferns planted ~~among~~ them.

I think we must collect some seeds of fern when
we make our excursion & I must endeavor to manage
the boy & rockwork for you this winter. It would really
be a curious affair to show you city friends.

I think of going up to Hyde Park for half a
day some time in the course of next week. Do
you know Dr. Hosack sufficiently well to give me
a mere note of introduction to him? I am anxious to
get a moment to peep at a book or two he has ^{in his} library. (His gardener exchanged such plants as
we wished from his collection last Spring — so that
I wish for nothing in that way) If so & it is convenient
enclose me a note for that purpose in the course of 2 or 5
days — but do not take a moment of your valuable time
for ~~that~~ purpose.

A. J. D.



Rec'd Sept. 10th and

Dear Sir

Botanic Garden & Museum

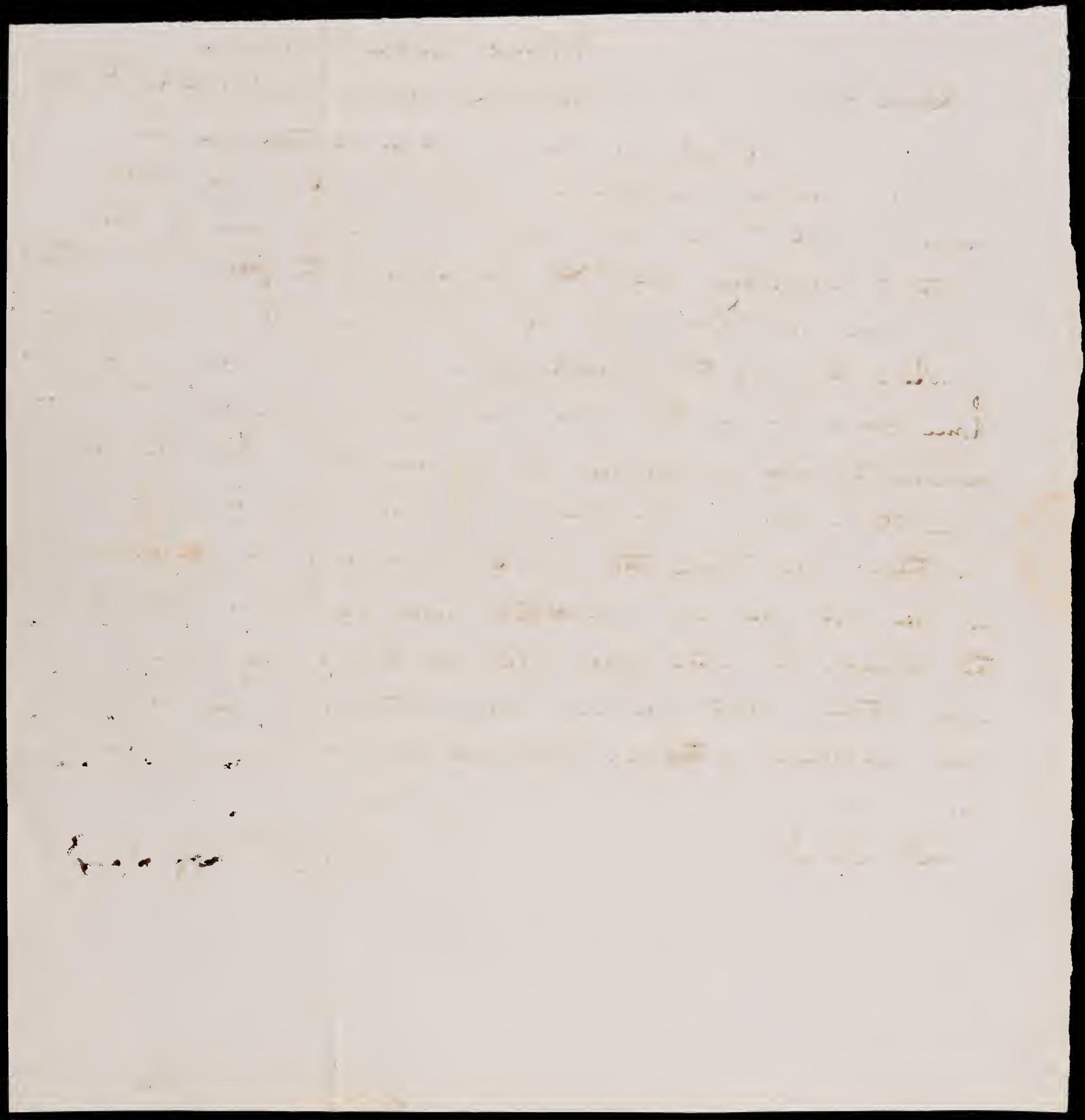
Nebraska. Monday M^g. 15th Sept 1856

I received your note from Mattoawan this morning and it is a source of much regret to me that I have to write to you now instead of coming down by the boat to accompany you & Dr Gray. One of the family (my mother) was taken quite dangerously ill on Friday last in consequence of which it is at this moment quite impossible for me to leave home for a day or two more. As however the symptoms are somewhat more encouraging this morning it is probable that I might be able if you think of staying long in N.J. to join you there some time this week. Or perhaps as you intimated in your note you may not start immediately on account of the cholera? In either case will you oblige me soon by a note stating what you are doing either from the pines or your residence in ~~there~~. I am quite disappointed in not joining you to day.

Dr Torrey

Very sincerely

J. F. Downing



Rec'd Nov. 14th 1834
Ans'd. Oct. 25 1834

3 Botanic Garden & Nursery
3 Newbury St. 13. Nov. 1834.

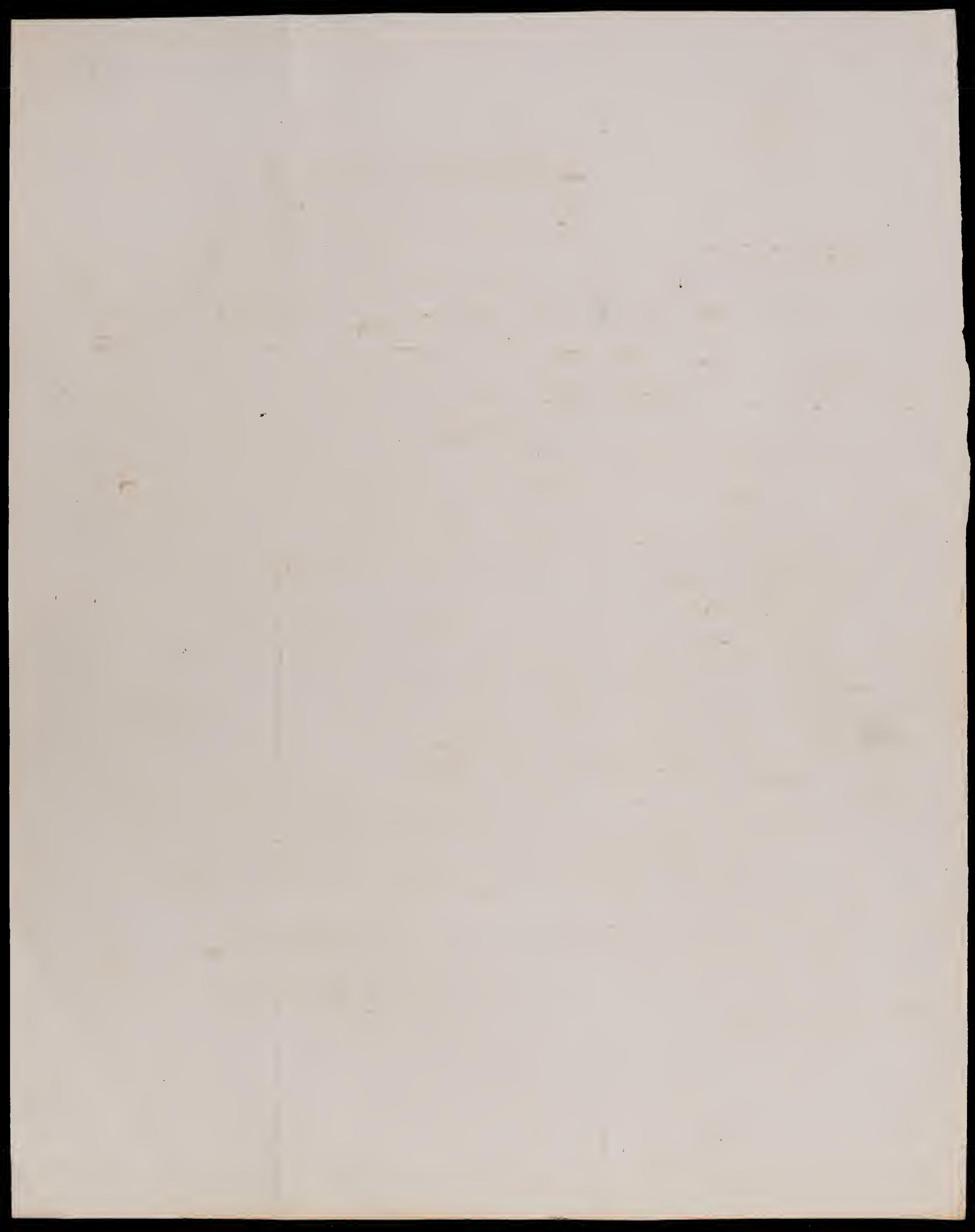
My Dear Sir

My close engagement in the hurry
of business at this season has wholly prevented me from
writing to you until this moment. The barrel of earth which
I sent you shortly after you was here I never heard
any receipt of, but hope that it arrived safely to
your hands. If you get your rockwork in a state of providing
by spring have the kindness to inform me of I shall be
most happy to give you a few plants suitable for
its decoration. — — — — — You would oblige me exceedingly

if at some moment of leisure you would trouble yourself
to send a few nos of the Flora boreali we were speaking
of on board of the steam boat Providence foot of Warren St
I have the pleasure of sending you by that boat this
evening a few plants (hardy herbaceous) which I hope will add
to the embellishment of your little garden. — Have the kindness
to excuse my want of time —

Very sincerely yours
A. J. Downing

Doct: Tony.



Rec'd. Jan. 5th 1835

Ans'd. Jan'y 15th

{ Botanic Garden & Nursery
{ Number of Dec. 29. 1834.

BRITISH MUSEUM
BOTANIC GARDEN
LITERATURE
BOTANICAL
UNIVERSITY

Dear Sir

I was very much gratified to receive yours of the 25th through Mr Leonard. Dr Lindley's Pamphlet on just this which accompanied it is to us very interesting. — You will please accept my hearty thanks for the package of Seeds which you have again been so kind as to send me. I was delighted to find among ^{them} the Peritomas & other fine things collected by Capt. Wyeth. — The curious mélange of Mr Bull's are all safely planted & from the fresh & sound appearance of the majority of them I flatter myself that a very considerable portion of them will germinate in the Spring.

I am sorry to learn that the small box of plants which I sent you were injured by delay. The accident would not have occurred but for the illness & consequent absence from the boat of the Captain — as he always pays particular attention to the delivery of our things in town. We have sent over among our importation list for a considerable number of dwarf & Alpine plants particularly adapted to Rock work which I hope will arrive safely as I have a great fancy for them & hope to introduce them into more general use.

I have noticed the publication of the 'Garden Botany' by Prof. Lindley & am very glad to hear that you mean to introduce it into use here. I have never been able to get a sight

of his "Introduction to Botany" published a year or two since
& spoken of so highly. Is it to be found in any of the
stores in town or have you a copy in your possession?
I shall feel obliged to you for an answer to this query
when you trouble yourself to write me again.

I am exceedingly pleased to hear of Dr Grays forthcoming
papers. If the Dr takes his usual tours next season I
hope that he will find a corner in ^{his} pocket to lay away
occasionally a stray seed — Bulbs of the Trilliums which
he mentioned to me as growing near Wethersfield would be
to us highly acceptable. — Writing of plants — have
you ever seen any specimens of Torreya or Bartonia ornata
growing? I have heard of one or two living plants in Mr
Nuttall's garden at Cambridge. So beautiful a plant is
surely worth some trouble in procuring. If you should ever
meet with any seeds I hope you will secure them.

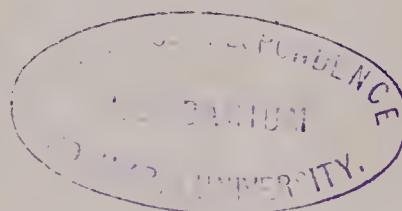
Mr Croom of Florida seems to be in a most excellent
botanical neighborhood & I have hopes that he will
favor you with some seeds & plants as well as dried
specimens.

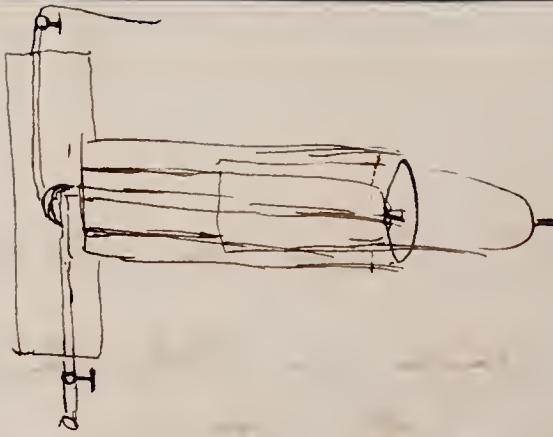
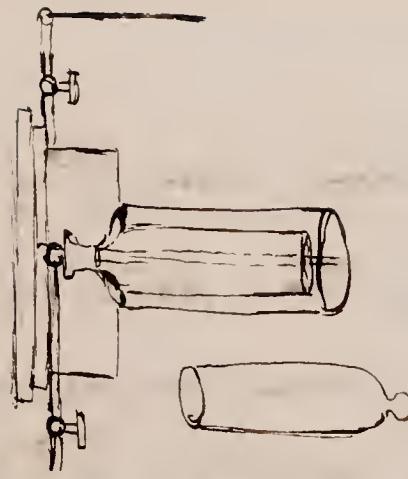
Yours ever truly yours

A. J. Downing

P. S. I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from Prof. Lindley
in which he states the perfect willingness of the Hort. Soc to
send us the articles we wish & mentions some american plants
as desiderata which I shall be happy to supply. Prof. Lindley
states that he is anxious to propose me as a corresponding Member
of the Soc Society & request "a recommedatory certificate from Dr
Toney" such being the usual form before Foreign Members can
be ballotted for. It is perhaps hardly necessary for me to say
that I should be much pleased to become a member. Perhaps
you will oblige me by forwarding me a note containing the
half dozen necessary words or if you will do so to Mr. Lindley
recollect it in your letter.

S. J. S.





Dr. John Torrey
Prof. of Chemistry & Botany
No. 30 Meadway St
New York



Rec'd March 7th

and March 19th of Botanic Garden & Nursey

Newburgh 4th March. 1835.



Dear Sir The two copies of Dr Gray's work on the grafted (with which on paper I am delighted) came to me safely & in due time. I expected that the river would have broken up & navigation commenced before this time when I should have been in town & would have paid my subscription price to Dr G. — as it is will you have the kindness to hand him the ship for paper on the last page of this letter? —

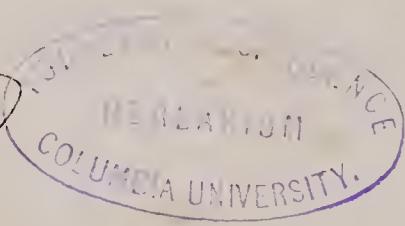
Do you receive the numbers of Hooker's "Journal of Botany" & also of that French work the Archiv de Botanique which you loaned me a number of two of last season? When will your catalogues of plants about St. L. be out of press? Does Dr Gray spend the summer season coming in the winter part of the States? These are queries which when you are so good as to write me again I should be much gratified to hear an answer to.

Pray have you received any late news of Mr Nuttall? We ought to expect much from him though I am rather fearful that if his route does not vary considerably from that of Mr S. Douglass he will not find so rich a harvest as the latter gentleman. Is it true as I have heard that young Mr McVick & his associate carried home with them some new & very interesting sp. of plants from the northwest of this.

We have but little appearance of Spring in this neighborhood as yet but I am looking forward to the bursting of the buds after our long & severe winter with all the ardor of a Botanist & a horticulturist. Allow me to ask have Mrs Torrey's (like many of those of our neighbors) house-plants suffered in our Lapland temperature? - if so some of my geraniums are budding so prettily that I shall be tempted to supply some of the empty places on her parlor stand.

Dr John Torrey.

Very sincerely
A. J. Downing



Rec'd Land. { Botanic Garden & Nursery
Apr 14th { Newburgh 13th April 1835.

My dear Sir

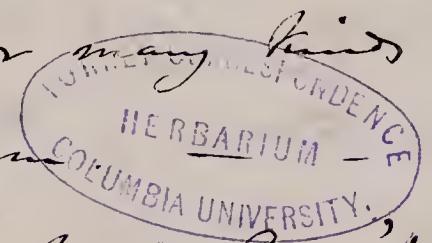
I embrace the first leisure moment in this
our very busy season to write you again. We seem to have
suffered less by the severity of the winter than most of the
other nurseries. Our constant demands for ~~many~~ ^{various} kinds have
been so great as almost to exhaust them.

Please inform me about the 2^d part of Dr Gray's work -
the price & how many specimens will it contain?
And has he still on hand any of the first vol. or no.?

I should be much pleased to get a few seeds of Viscum
verticillatum - can you or Dr Gray inform me from whom
or where I can procure a few?

As we were sending plants by the Providence (steamboat) this
evening I have put a small box on board containing a
few plants for Mrs. Farry nothing it is true very rare
but which I nevertheless hope she will accept. —

You will see in your last that you can send me one of
Short's catalogues - I have had the pleasure of an acquaintance
with him & I should be pleased if you would spare me
one of them. I am anxious to examine for a short time
some work on the mosses with plates. If you have
a copy of Hooker's Muscologia Britannica that you



could loan me for a short time I should feel exceedingly
blessed to you. You might send it at once to the Steamboat
Providence post. I Warren I^{ll} a leave it with our agent

Mr Partridge 34 Cliff St. N.Y. —

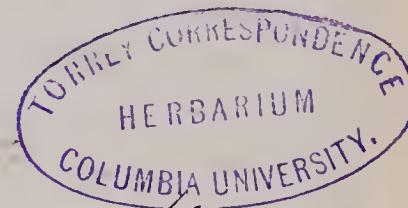
It was reported in the public prints that a Mr Douglas,
a scientific Englishman was killed by a wild bull in
the mountains of Hawaii — could this have been David
Douglas who was I believe botanizing in the Sandwich
Islands? — I sincerely hope that you will receive
some of Crows seeds or living plants from Florida this
season for I have no doubt he can send some rare &
excellent things from that quarter. — I did hope to
be able to give you a call before this but our pressure
of business this spring has precluded the possibility of
that pleasure at present. Among other things which
I shall be gratified to see ^{in your herbarium} are the late nos of
Hawkins Journ. of Bot. & Flor. Breckinridge which you
mention the receipt of

Dr. Torrey.

Most cordially yours
A. J. Downing

P. S. I am sure that you will smile when you see a plant
of Davallia Lapponica among the rest — Nonpareil — the thought
struck me that it would be quite a rarity to see it bloom in

Town
1870



J. J. J.
Dr. John J. J. J.
Droppings of Chemistry & Botany
30. Mc. Graw St. New York.



Rec'd Nov^o 23rd
and Dec^o 1st.



Botanic Garden & Museum
New York Nov 21st 1856.

My dear Sir

I had hoped to have called upon you this morning but the violent storm prevented my leaving home. I return herewith Mr Reynolds' ^{hampshire} thanks — we shall expect much from Dr Gray if he goes out — & you may tell him that I shall expect a little for I suppose I ought to be anticipating the growing of Palms by the time he returns: I shall be glad to hear that the Secy of the Navy will send him abroad for books as ought by all means to be the case but fear Mr C. is too parsimonious.

The box of Empetrum arrived in excellent order to all appearance — & are safely planted, some in pots subject to your drafts & some in the open ground. If it does not grow this time I will shut it up in hermetically sealed cases à la Ward. I find a good many excellent things in the package of seeds from London which you have been so kind as to send me — and a great many quite unknown to me — where have they come from?

Accompanying you will receive the paper on Cycadæ. It was written in haste & I was not surprised or reprehending it to find abundance of errors. I have altered it. I hope for the better & said a few words about the history &c. &c. as you desired. I have also alluded to Cerdas discoveries in a note as you will see though I confess it is quite gratuitous on my part particularly as I have never seen either the original or Dr Gray's translation, he being out when I last called at the Lycæum

- However I trust to your goodness to look over the note & right or re-write it as you see proper. You will greatly oblige me also by running your practised eye over the paper again & rectifying anything which may have escaped me if it is to go to Dilliman. I hope you will by all means have the drawing to accompany it. If you cannot get Lt. Bailey to execute the lithograph of the plant I think I might get Mr. Boyle to do it but I think one who knows something of botanical drawing ought to do the plate of the seed.

I hope you will be able to obtain some seed, if not the live plant of the Florida taxoid plant. Young trees could be sent best in the last of March as they would be certain to grow here at that time.

The Boston Hort. Mag. will be brought out with a new & improved appearance in Jan. next and I hope to see it well supported. I think you will make some exertion to reorganize your N. Y. Soc. I have just received the annales de la Société Royale d'horticulture de Paris 9 vols. up to the last July & they are highly interesting.

I should be glad to become a member of the Lyceum - is there any particular difficulty in so doing?

I shall be in N. York probably the first of next week and will give myself pleasure of calling on you. I suppose you meet the governor in Albany this week. I remain dear Sir

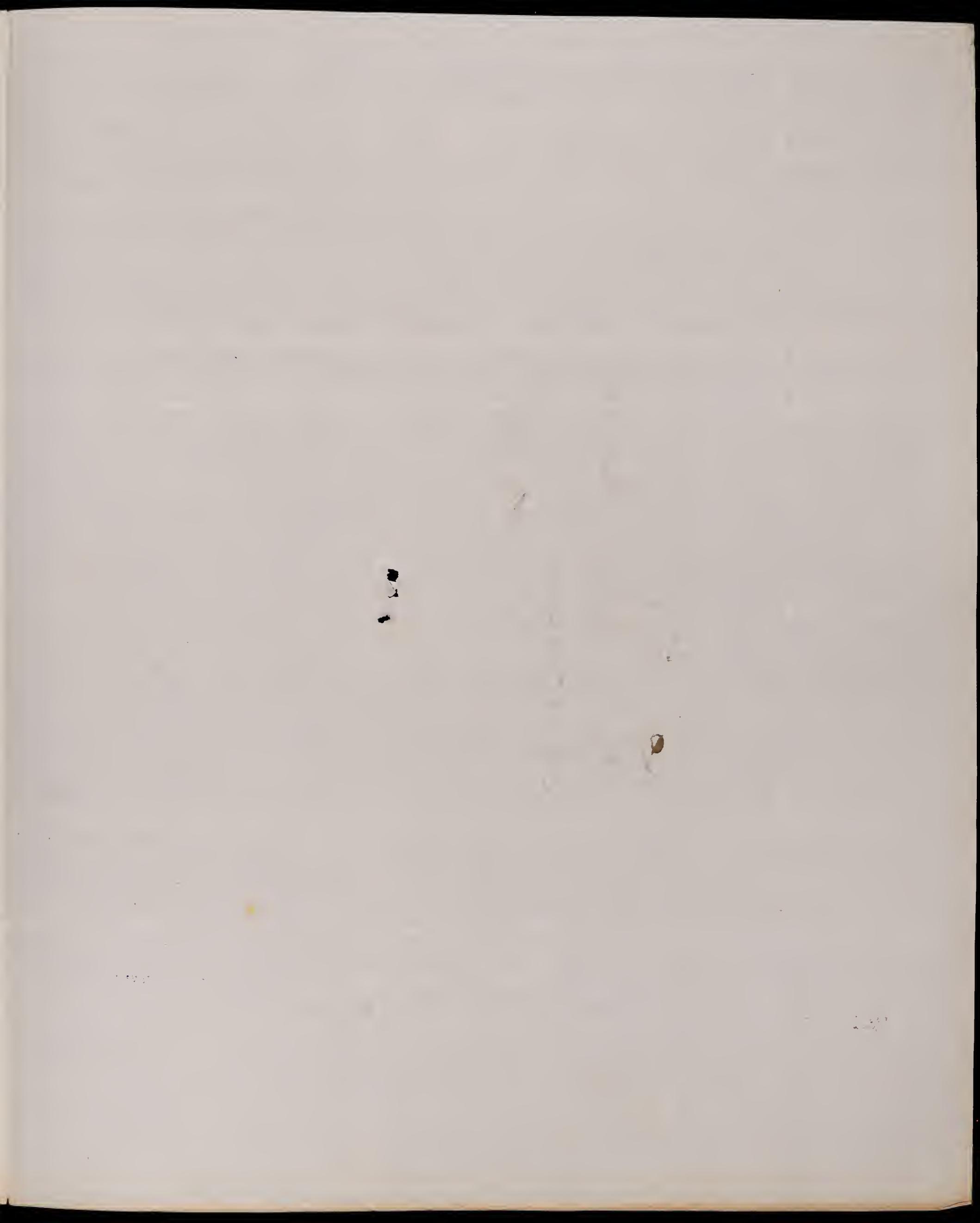
With the utmost esteem

Yours.

A. J. Downing



Monday



Dr. Jones
Prof. of Botany & Chemistry
30 McDougal St.
Montreal

Am. Feb 12

LIBRARY
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Botanic Garden & Nursery

Newburgh N.Y. 28th Dec. 1835

My dear Sir

I wrote you some time since but suppose either that my letter has not reached you or which is more probable that your numerous duties in the Laboratory, &c. have not left upon your hands much leisure time.

The Empetrum Conradii of which you were so kind as to send me a number of roots, was when it reached Newburgh so much dried up that with the utmost care we could only make two pots of it survive. As it appears to be an evergreen, it is probable that like other individuals ^{of that nature} it could be transplanted with most success in the Spring.

If you can procure for me the coming spring a few seeds of the Viscum which I believe grows plentifully in N. Jersey I shall be greatly indebted to you.

You will receive by my friend Mr. Morell (I hope in good order) a specimen of a species of Euphorbia known in our American exotic collections as E. Poinsettii after ~~that~~ our late Mexican minister of that name who is said to have introduced it into this country from Mexico. I believe it is not known in England by that name if it exists there at all — as London in criticising a notice of its flowering in this country supposes it to be synonymous with E. splendens. ~~that~~ I was told also in Boston this year that such was believed to be the case there. But on turning to the

Botanical Mag. (Hodkew) Tab. 2902.) I find not only that E. splendens is from Madagascar but that every part of the stem of the plant is clothed ~~with~~ exceedingly thick with spines or thorns — & that it is splendid from the brilliant crimson of the flowers themselves instead of, as in the present instance (E. poinsettii) in its superb scarlet bracts which often in good specimens measure a foot across. I find that I have no description of such a sp. as E. poinsettii or any which appear to me to be synonymous to it. I must ask you therefore to examine the Specimen and let me know the result.

Mr. Knowels collection of Plants is looking very finely particularly his palms of which I think he has the richest collection in America both he & I had intended to send you a few plants but were caught by the early cold weather. You may expect to be remembered in the spring.

I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing Arnott & Wright's Indian Flora which you mention. I should be exceedingly obliged to you if you have any ^{late} pamphlets or periodicals (such as the companion to the Bot. Mag) relating to Botany or Hort: that you could send me to glance over by mail (paying the postage each way) if you would trouble yourself to do so. the water navigation is so much closed that I can now get nothing in that manner. In my last letter I gave Dr. Gray a check for 2 vols of his Grande which as my brother tells me is not yet drawn. I repeat again. I take shame to myself that it was

not
paid before.

If you receive any of the Florida *Sarracenia* I shall be happy to get a plant or two. Enclosed are a few fresh seeds of *Gilia tricolor* which you may plant in your garden next spring. The seed you sent me last spring & it's truly one of the most beautiful annuals I ever saw - flowering till severe frost.

Is the promised introduction to Botany in prep yet? Pray do you know any thing in cultivation of *Boralea esculenta* which Pursh states to be an staple article of diet (in its roots) among the western Indians? Is it found in the Northern States?

I remain Dear Sir

Very sincerely yours

W. J. Downing

Dr. J. Gray
Prof. of Botany & Chemistry
30. Bengal St.
Minciootah

to grammar over by mail (of paying the postage each way) if
you would trouble yourself to do so. the water navigation
is so much closed that I can now get nothing in that
manner. In my last letter I gave Dr Gray a check for
2 vols of his Grande which as my brother tells me is not yet
drawn I repeat again. I take shame to myself that it was

Rec'd 12th.

and. Feby

Botanic Garden of New-York
Tuesday Feb. 19th /36.

My dear Sir

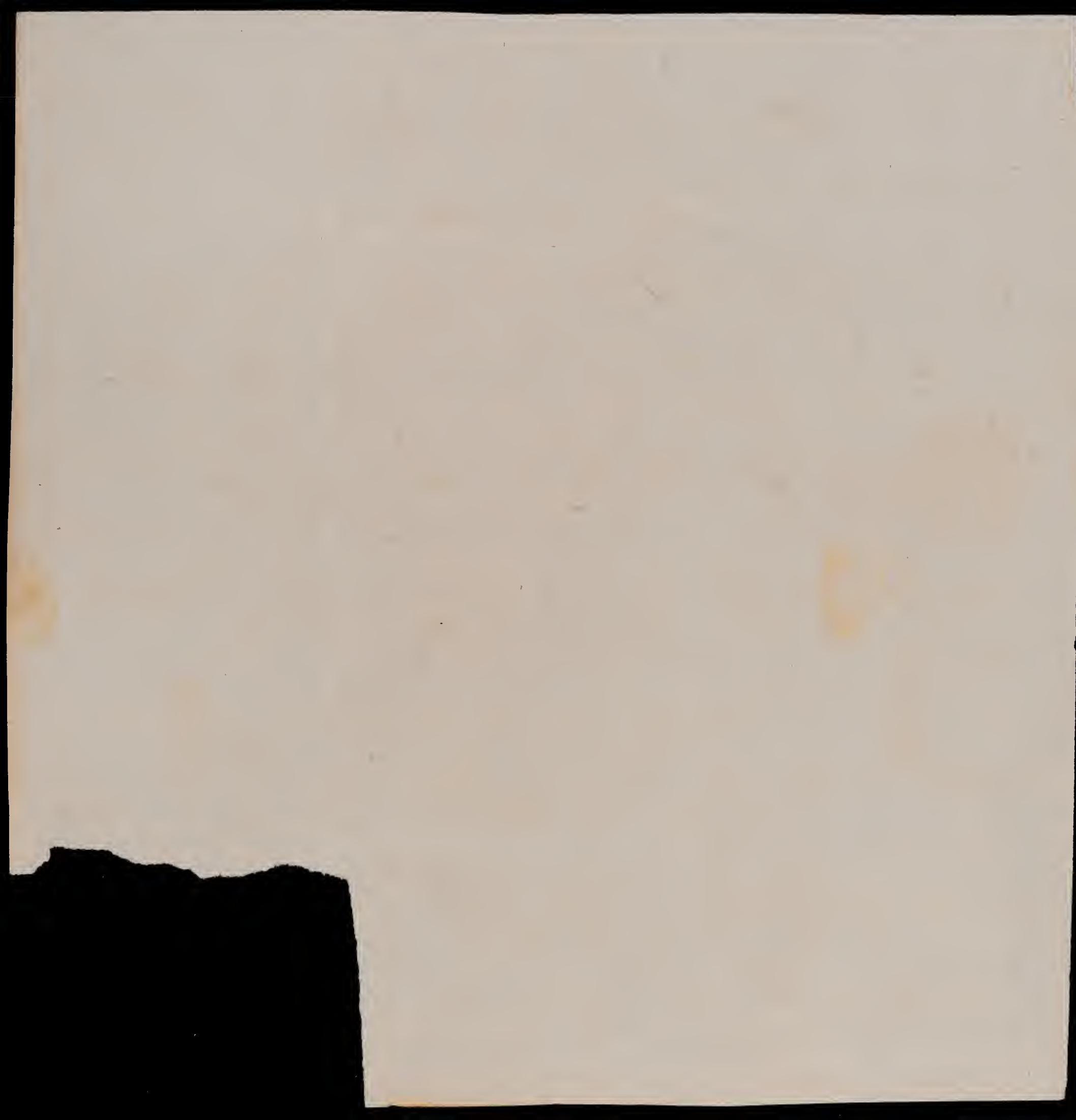
I sent you some time ago four weeks since
by a friend who was going to the city a letter accompanied
with a specimen in flower of a plant generally known in
our Herbarium collections as *Euphorbia Poinsettii* but which
I have reason to doubt the accuracy. If the specimen reached
you in a good state will you have the kindness to communicate
to me your opinion upon it? if not please inform me & I will
endeavour to forward you another specimen before it goes out
of flower.

I remain Dear Sir

Very sincerely yours

J. J. Downing

Dr. Tony.



Rec'd. Apr. 1
Ans. 1

Botanic Garden of New York
New York 28th March 1836

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

My dear Sir

Your letter and the accompanying pamphlets
and periodicals, which you were so kind as to send me
by Mr. Leonard are reached me very safely and truly
and were very acceptable to me. Our ^{direct} communication with the
city has been so long interrupted that our appetite for
any news in the scientific way is quite keen I assure
you. — Spring — I should say Summer as yet shows no
disposition to visit us speedily for the fields are yet covered
with nearly a foot of snow and the Hudson is still closed
— it is probable that the transition of the season this year
will be Canadian however and I think you may venture to
come out in the country for a botanical ramble by the first
of July at least! What a fine winter it has been for the

D. Crooke Collection

100

The Comp. to Bot. Mag. which you mention, I shall be much gratified
to look over. I fully agree with your ideas of the beneficial
effects which would result from the publication of such a
periodical here. Why will you not undertake it. Can it
be possible that we are yet too youthful to relish and
support any thing of this sort? Will not some of our enterprising

publisher with your assistance put it to the test?

Mr. Sturges bids me convey his regards to you. His exotic collection is looking very splendidly I assure you and he is studying the natural system with the advantage of the illustration afforded by tropical specimens that few of us can command. A very fine Japanese Sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*) about 40 years old and 4 or 5 ft high is throwing up a ~~bloody~~ lusty centre of inflorescence - probably for the first time in America. It may be in bloom in a fortnight or more and I hope you will be able to examine it. Mr. Ha requests me to say that you must by no means fail to pay him a visit when you are in this neighborhood.

You mentioned in a letter in my possession dated about a year past that you knew a locality in N. Jersey where the Middlebē (Viscum) grew in abundance. You will confer a very great favor if you have a correspondent in that neighborhood by sending me as soon as convenient some seeds of it. Or if you are too full of engagements pray oblige me by telling me of some person in that neighborhood whom I may write for them.

Will any one be sent out from England to supply Douglas' place? It is truly wonderful as you say that all our finest specimens of dried plants come to us by the way of Europe! It would be well for us and an honor to the nation if ~~the~~ some of the immense surplus money in the treasury which are there

~~extinct~~ source of so much distress to our politicians could be applied to the fostering of science and literature.

Please inform me whether I can procure a good microscope (for the better investigation of vegetable structure) in town - and the probable cost. I think I saw a very good instrument in your study last summer.

I see your name among the Committee who solicited Prof. Elliman to repeat his course of lectures in N.Y. Do you coincide with him in his theory?

I will take an early opportunity when the boats commence running to send a few plants to replenish Mrs. Torrey's parlor stand, if they will be acceptable. The winter has been so severe that many house plants ^{doubtless} have perished - neither Mr. Knevels or I however have lost any by the cold fortunately. I think the crop of peaches is however injured again.

Believe me dear Sir

Dr. Torrey.

Very truly Yrs

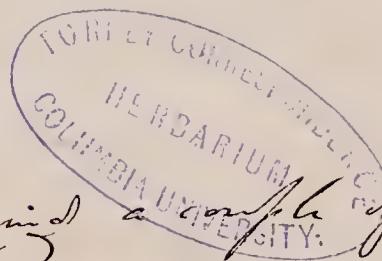
A. J. Downing.

I am delighted with the admirable arrangement and perspicuity of description that I find in Dr. Gray's Monograph of Rhynchosciurus and still more if I may judge from the specimen sent me with your Apocynaceae. Would that we had a complete n. american flora executed in the same admirable manner. A. J. D.

Dr. John Torrey
Professor of Chemistry & Botany
30 Mc. Dougall St.
New York.

Rec'd May 6th

And. May 7th Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newbury 2nd May 1836.



My dear Sir

Your note of the 23rd accompanying a specimen of
vol. of Rafinesque's was received by me the next day from the
U.S. Hotel. The "American Nations" with which I have been much entertained
and the 6 nos. of the "Companion to B. M." which you were so kind as
to loan me return to you with my thanks in company with this
note. The "Atlantic Journal" ^{genus} will you permission retain, yet
for a few days. The *Euphorbia* ^{gas} you say differs wonderfully in the
structure of the different sp. so much so that it has often occurred
to me that the succulent leafless & almost leafless, ~~various~~ species
might with propriety be separated from the rest of the genus. I do
not think favourably however of Rafinesque's *Perraudinia* as with the
exception of the singular glandular process in the flower *E. Poinsettii*
is very nearly related to *E. pulchra*. I think in the appearance of
the plant it bears some ^{strong} resemblance to the next genus *Ped-*
ianthus. It is very strange ^{see} if it has not ^{reached} reached England. If you
have the last year of Curtis' which I have not, please look it
over and see if it is not there found under some other name.

You speak of having slightly examined the flower of the *Cycl*
and of its agreeing tolerably well with *C. cincinnata* of Richard's fig's
I suspect there is no great difference ^{in Mr. K's} in the flower of *C. revoluta*
& *C. cincinnata* but as you recollect, there is a very decided
dissimilarity in the plants when growing. Mr. Knobels'

C. circinata is very fine & is the only one I have seen in this country while *C. revoluta* (if the plant commonly known as such is so) is common in all good collections. Mr. K. will be very glad to have an opportunity of looking over Richard.

The "world or instability" as shown up by the new post-law will be much pleased to look over when you can lay your hand upon it.

Has the second edition of Lindley's "Introduction" or this "Key to Structural & Botany" reached New York. I wish to get a glimpse of the latter as it ^{is} said to contain the "Nixus Plantarum" a little pamphlet which I was never able to get hold of.

Will you pardon me if I again remind you of the Tiscum seeds which I spoke of in my last? I should be exceedingly gratified if you could put me in the way of getting some of them. I may be in town on business a few hours next week & if so I shall endeavor to call on you.

A friend of mine residing near Boston, ^{who is a very good botanic except muscology} the Rev. J. R. Russel wrote me to know if Dr. Gray or yourself will for a set of Specimens of the different mosses of that neighborhood return him a "named" out even if it were only of the genera". Could Dr. Gray gain any thing in the way of eastern mosses by a little trouble in this ~~process~~ method? How does the Dr. progress in his promised "Muscologia"?

By the Steamer Superior to night I send down a very few plants to refresh Mrs. T's Parlor Stand which I hope may prove acceptable to her.

You will probably receive them. With the greatest respect
by the time this reaches you.

Dear Sir

Yours.

A. J. Downing



Dr. John Jones
Professor of Botany & Chemistry
30. M^{rs} Donald St.
New York

Yours truly
John Jones



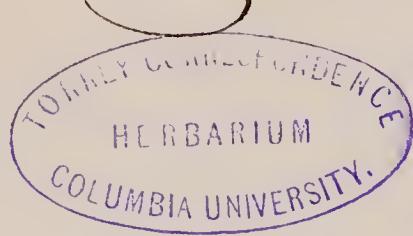
Botanic Garden & Library
Newburgh 17th May 136.

My Dear Sir

What has become of the Box of Florida plants? You gave it in charge of the negro-man the convey to the Highlander when I was at your house but I suspect he did not reach that boat as I came up in her myself & the box was not on board. I was obliged to leave home the next day but left orders to search for the box in all the subsequent boats but it has not been found! This is probably owing (if it has been sent) to its not having my direction upon it. ^{which is my fault not yours} But we have looked for it under your direction which I believe was still remaining upon it. I should be sorry to lose it — can you give me any information respecting when it was sent & in what boat

Yours in haste

A. J. Downing

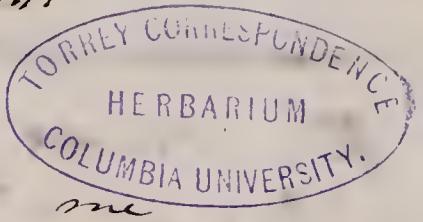




Dr. John Jones.
Prof. of Philanthropy & Chemistry
30 McDougal St.
New York

And July 25.

3 Botanic Garden of Albany
Newburgh Line 1836.



My dear Sir

You will receive to morrow from me
the two books of Raspisques which I should have
returned before except for the loan as you desired of
one of them to Mr Kennedy. In the basket containing
them you will also find a few specimens of matured
pericarps which I beg you to examine thoroughly.

The seeds which you were so kind as to send me a
week or more ago were rec'd safely together with the
Hamburg Bot. Soc. Catalogue for which please accept
my thanks. The box of Florida plants I have never
seen or heard a word of since at your house! I regret
this very much. The negro never could have put them on
board of the NB boat.

The Cycas which you examined at Mr H's when you
was here is singularly enough going on towards matur-
ation as regularly as if the male had bloomed beside
her - The drapes[?] are now of the size of walnuts, and
the globose head of metamorphosed leaves [still retaining
the same brownish hue] is nearly one half larger than

when seen by you. The seeds cannot of course, so as to
~~reproduce~~ again germinate but is it not unique that
they should grow and ripen at all?

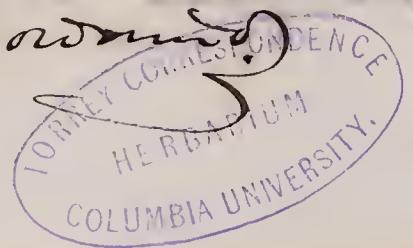
I shall be obliged to you if you will at some leisure
moment give me the recipe for coating plaster vases
so as to withstand the weather. The French seem
to understand this admirably ~~so~~ if we may judge from
the accounts in Foreign mag. - but I see no recipe
for preparing the substance used.

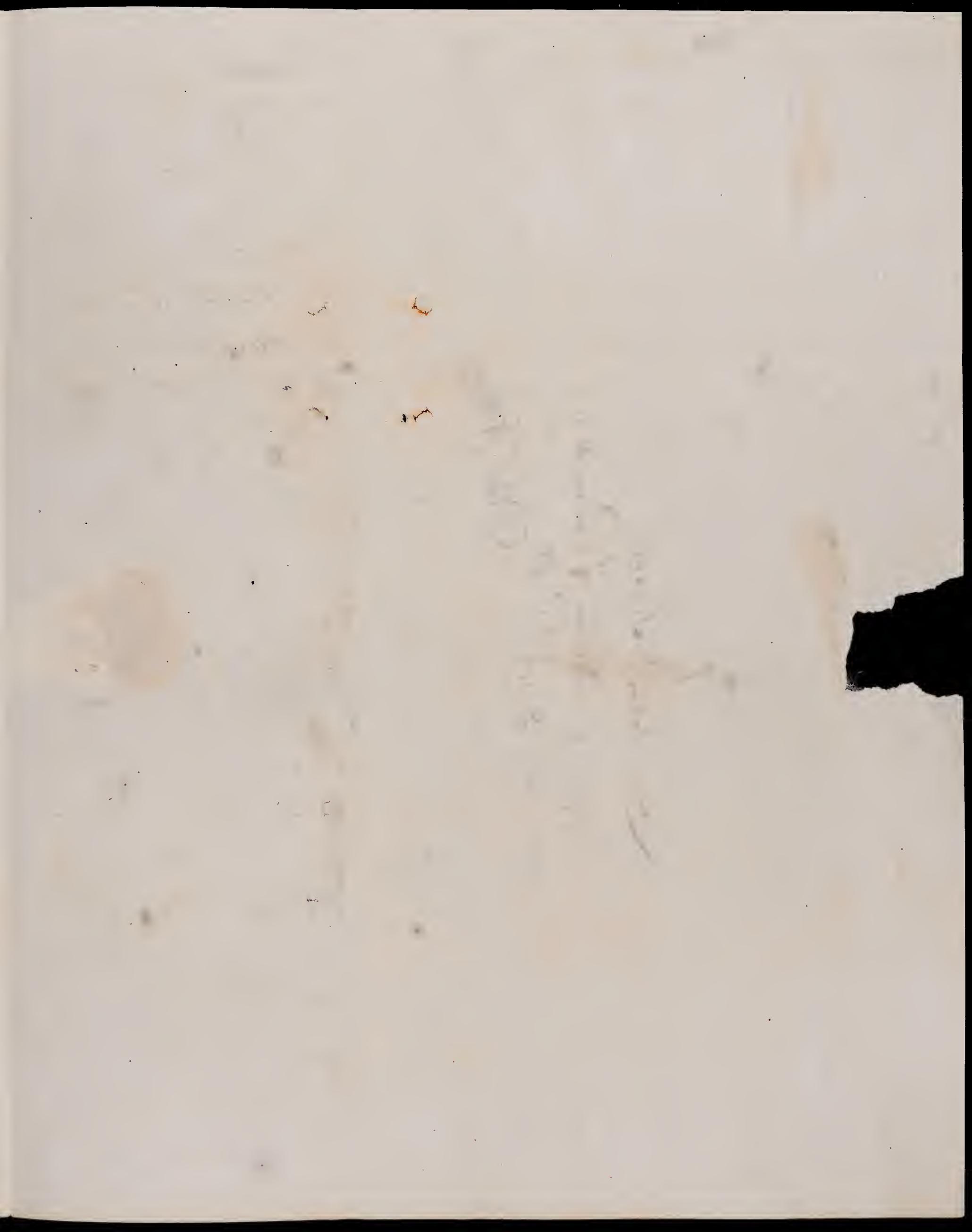
I wish you would send me a copy of Dr Gray's
Introduction for which I will remit him. What
news can you tell me of the Geological Survey?
Have you a copy of ~~the~~ Annals of the Phil^a-Acad. Sciences
for last year that you can loan me for a few days.

If you commence a botanical class and wish any
specimens of flowers for examination please inform
me and I shall be happy to send you anything
we have. The long continuance of misty rainy
weather though so very unpleasant has been
by no means unfavorable to our vegetation &
the garden is progressing very well
With respect

P.S. In the basket you will
find an Amaryllis in full bud
for Mrs T.S. stand.

A. J. Downing

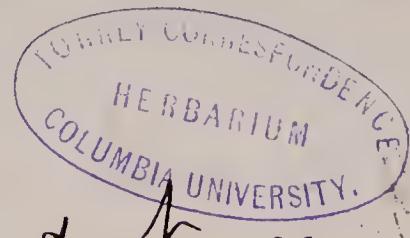




new
Name

Dr. John. Doney
Professor of Botany & Chemistry
30. Mc Donald St. New York





Botanic Garden & Museum
Newburgh 27th Aug. 1856.

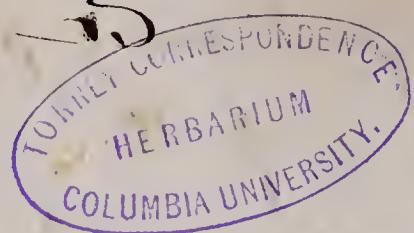
My dear Sir

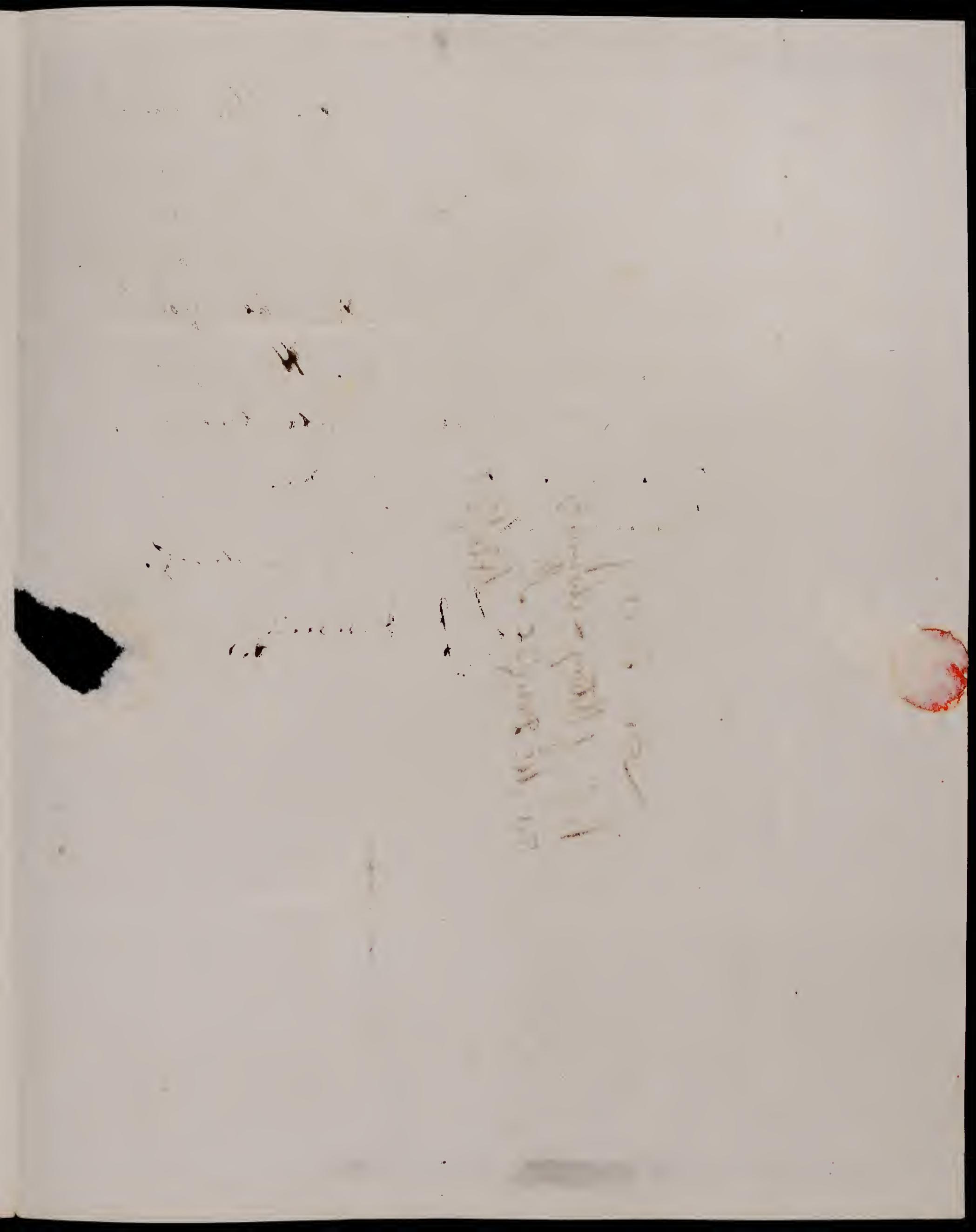
On Monday last being in town I called at your house, but found that you had not returned from Princeton, & that Dr. Gray had gone out. —
Not having seen or heard of you for a long while I should have been glad of a few moments conversation. Young Hogg whom I saw afterward, having informed me that you are coming soon upon the Geolog. Survey. I flatter myself that I may perhaps catch sight of you as you pass up the river. You would add very much to the obligations under which you have already laid me if you would look over your Bot. library & select any works that contain any information upon the structure of Cycadaceæ, particularly of the structure of the seed. Mr Knecht's Cycas is to all appearance perfecting! its seeds. It is altogether a curious plant & I should like to study the structure with the present good opportunity. I will return ~~as~~

Book or books in a couple of days. You have
not informed me whether you rec'd the basket
which I sent you last with the works of
Rafinesque in it. I hope it arrived safely.
I hope you will not fail to call when you
come up in this neighborhood. Have you
the last Edition of Lindley's Introduction?
I was unable to find it in town.

I remain Dr Sir very cordially.

A. J. Downing





John. Torrey
Prof. of Botany & Chem. by
30 Mr. Douglass
New York

Recd. of and.

Oct 1st

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Botanic Garden. ~~of~~ ¹⁸³¹
Pittsburgh 11th Oct 1831

My dear Sir

I feel that I owe you an apology
for my delay in returning your Pickard which accompanys
this letter with Brown's pamphlet. My illness a short
time since & in consequence of the absence of my brother
my constant engagements since have scarcely left me
a moments time to prepare the paper on the Graecia &
until it was written I desisted to keep it works.
I do not know whether the paper (which you will find
in the vol.) is drawn up in the form most proper &
desirable but I have only to say that I hope as you
promised that you will alter cut down or insert,
~~or amend~~ it if it is at all suitable in any way you think
best. It is pretty long but then is so little generally known
of Graecia that I thought a general view of the order
it would be interesting. I have not even time to ~~read~~ copy
it but hope you will be able to ~~read~~ my ~~copy~~ hasty
scribbling. You will see that my view of the coats of the
seeds is slightly different from Brown, I hope will coin-
cide with your own. If my memory does not serve me right
respecting the American Gamia please rectify me - in the other of

The vernation is not at all opposite. You will see in the paper reference to the plates. Plate 1^o should be you draw in the view of the whole plant. I had hoped to have had this prepared by Mr Hoyle the artist who is often here but he is at present gone to Washington to endeavor to get the appointment as draughtsman to the South-sea-expedition. I still hope to be able to get him to do it on his return. Plate 2^o which contains drawings & descriptions I have nearly finished in a tolerable way myself & will ^{send} bring it down to you in a few days. It will be a great pity if we cannot get a handsome plate of the whole plant.

If you have any nos of the Companion to the Bot. Mag. to spare for a few days I shall be much gratified to receive them. Has Liddell's new edition reached you?

I see in the papers notices every short time of meetings to be of your Hort. Soc. I do really hope you will be able to recipitate it. The Pennsylvania Soc. has at present 700 paying members & is very vigorous - the Boston Soc. as you see by their Hort. journal is very flourishing. I think you want a complete new organization & have no doubt your zeal will effect every thing necessary the coming season.

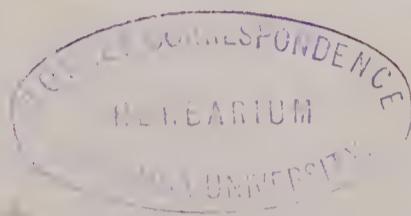
If there is any thing stated by Bees or Schenck which ought to be stated in the paper or Guard with you.

have the goodness to condense it. I work it in?

I beg you to accept the little basket of fruit which accompanies this. I shall be in town a short time next week & will call on you.

Most truly yours

A. J. Downing

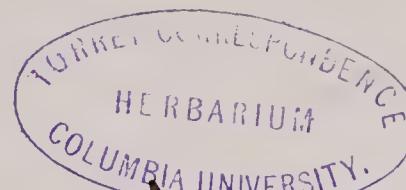


1852
A. J. Downing

John Jones
Professor of Chemistry & Botany
30 McDougal St
New York.

Rec'd dec 3rd

and Dec 12th



Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh Dec 2nd. 1836.

My dear Sir

As I did not have the pleasure of seeing you when I called at your house on Monday last I must take the opportunity of writing to you on a little matter which I could only have mentioned then. The Boston Magazine will come out in a new form on January next with a handsome cover & an alteration in its title viz: "The Magazine of Horticulture, Botany &c &c." & considerable efforts will be made to increase its subscription list, which is now very respectable, in order to be able to afford plates of plants occasionally. ~~I~~ naturally feeling interested in the success of such a periodical & being a friend of the conductors who are exceedingly clever in their profession I have taken the liberty at their solicitation to request that you would furnish a short article for the Jan no. Perhaps a page or two thrown together in the shape of botanical news or gossip relating to the affairs of the past year & prospect, for example, Nuttall's winter tour, Dr. Wm. Brewster, the S. S. Expedition &c &c which will be highly interesting

to general readers I would take but a moment of your
valuable time. Prof. De Candolle I perceive does not disdain
to be useful by his coms in the French Horticultural periodicals
I would be permitted to hope for something from you as
the president of the N.Y. Bot. Soc.

Perhaps if you are too much engaged Dr Gray will find a
few moments of time for the above. If attempted the communication
may be addressed to me I should reach me by the 12th. I
hope you will have the goodness to pardon this solicitude on
my part adding as I am aware it does to the many occupations
already preying upon your hands.

I hope you received the paper on Gras & your pamphlet
safely. I remain Dear Sir

Most sincerely

Yours.

A. J. Downing

P.S. Does L. Bailey do the plates for Dr Gray's paper?



Rec'd. Aug. 5th

Botanic Garden & Nursery
New York Oct 26 1836

John Burtt
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My dear Sir

I received your package with your kind favours
the latter note dated the 21st yesterday. The seeds from Georgia are
very acceptable to me — & both Mr Knevel & myself have been
amused & interested with the pamphlet of Rafinesque strange wandering
— he is undoubtedly the lif errant among naturalists.

I regret very much to hear of Mrs T's indisposition & it gives
me sincere pleasure to forward to day a little bouquet for her which
I hope will reach her in safety — if the Camellias do not lose their
beauty before she sees them I am sure they will be quite a treat.
Mr Knevel has been laid up this three week past with the inflammatory
Rheumatism. I suppose you are aware he has purchased ground for
a country seat on the opposite shore of the Burns where he contemplates
erecting a handsome residence with conservatories &c. I shall regret to
lose him from this side but shall be heartily glad to see him fairly out
of the unfortunately located place he now occupies in some situation
where his collection of plants & taste for gardening may display themselves to
some little advantage. Euphorbia poinsettia. Poinsettia per Gr. is splendidly
in bloom in his laboratory — I send you a little piece in the bouquet.

I regret that my article on Cedars cannot be published in the
Jan. no. of Linnæan only because I should wish it to accompany Dr
Grays — which I suppose will anticipate what little may be of

interest in mine. I hope as Dr Gray will of course have duplicates of Cerdas plates & his paper that he will forward me one or two.

What scandalous delay in the appointments for the I. S. Expedition! My friend Mr Knobell says that from a passage in Mr Sec. Dickenson's report he concludes the Secretary intends to wait for the "completion of the ~~other~~ ^{other} birth" in the ~~figures~~ & then fit the members of the scientific corps "in" measuring them intellectual by their physical capacities. Mar! poor Yorick!

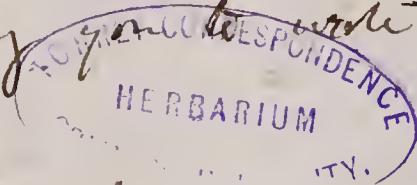
If you will ~~please~~ write & direct to me before the 15th Dec. the little article of Bot. news &c for the Hort. Mag. you will greatly oblige both myself & my friend the very ~~excellent~~ ^{excellent} editor of that periodical who certainly deserves aid in his endeavours to foster a spirit for Hort. &c in this country.

I receive every two or three weeks from the bookseller in town a package for the Public Library here of which I am one of the directors: the arrangements for the winter transportation are not yet made but when they are I will notify you of the place where my little pamphlet &c which you may be so kind as to send me may be deposited & whence they will reach me in safety.

A sulphuret of lead mine has been discovered the past season about 25 miles from this place on the Shawangunk range owned by gentlemen here which promises to be very profitable. The ore yields about 80 per cent & 50 tons have already been mined. I will send you a good specimen for the Lyceum cabinet - if you wish. I beg you to write me when you have leisure.

Very sincerely ..

A. F. Downing



P. S. The above was written as you will see by the date
several days ago & the bouquet prepared. Unfortunately since
that very day the steamers have not been able to get higher
up than West Point & all Mr. T's beautiful Camellias will have
to stay above the Highlands. I console myself with the
reflection that I shall yet have an opportunity to send
a bouquet before the winter is over. Mr. Estey is so good
as to be the bearer of this.



Dr. ⁱⁿ Jorrey
30. M^o: Orange St.
New York

Mr. Colverley

Rec'd. March 24 to 1837
Ans'd. March 25

Dr. Wm. Gray

My dear Sir

Allow me the pleasure of introducing my friend Mr. C. M. Stover of Boston, the editor of the excellent "Magazine of Horticulture" published in that place. He would like to take a peep at your fine Herbarium and any attentions you may have it in your power ^{to show him will} oblige me.

Most truly yours,

Newburgh. }
14th March. }

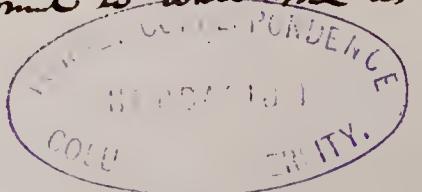
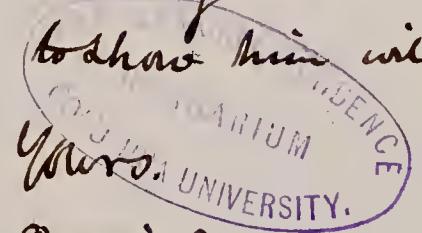
A. J. Downing

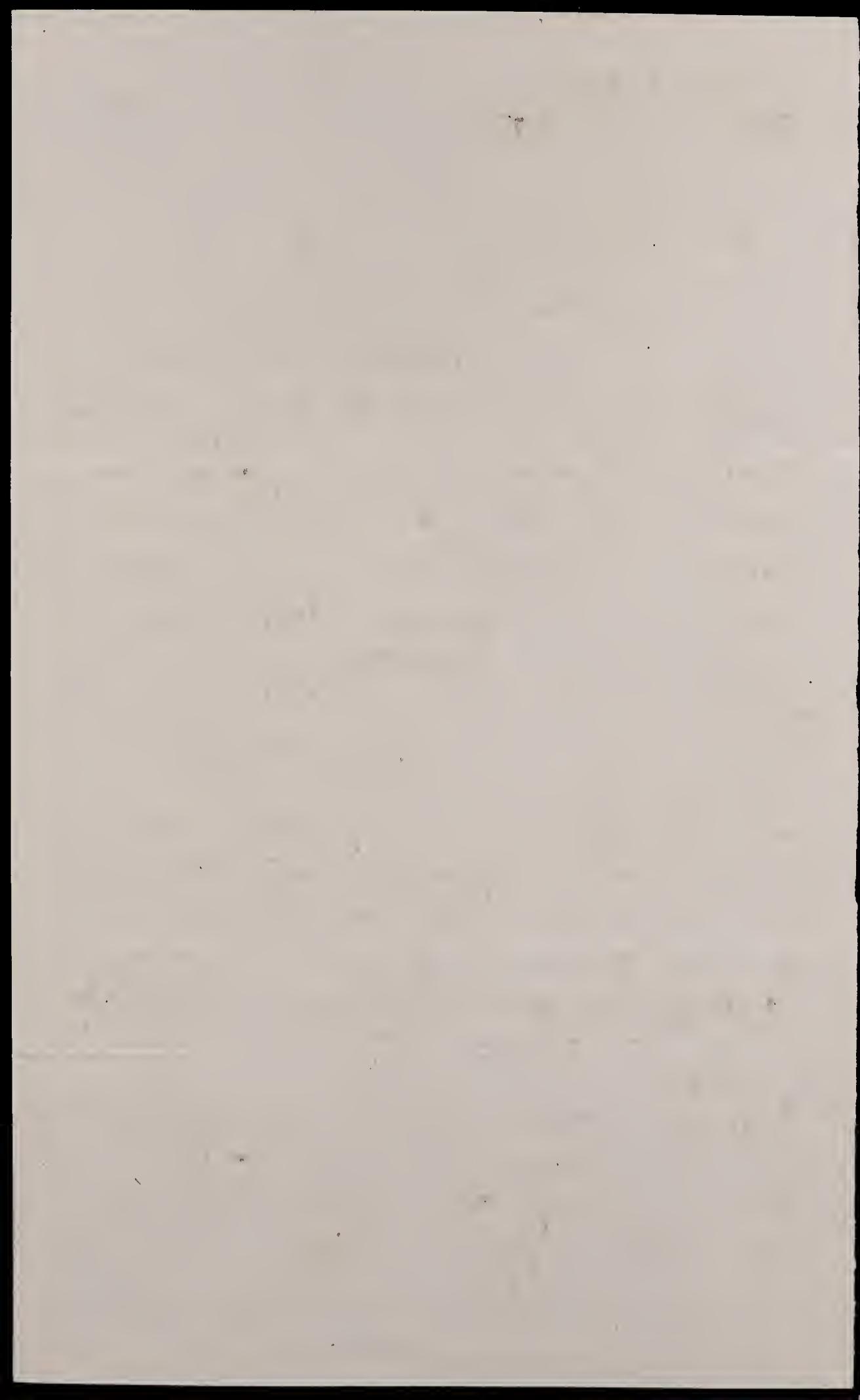
P. S. I have not written you very lately, because I knew you to be very deeply engaged. But I shall hope to hear from you soon. My dear Mrs. J. Dilliman is awaiting me in town the river being yet closed: I am anxious to read Dr. Gray's article which I suppose it contains. Do you know whether the drawings of Gray are to be engraved for my article?

Tell Mrs. T. that her bouquet is not yet faded, but shall make its appearance in the first boat.

What are you doing? Steal a minute to write me as soon as possible.

A. J. D.





THE BRITISH MUSEUM
LONDON
UNIVERSITY.
London, Garden & Botanic
Gardens, Edinburgh Sept 11th 1887

My dear Sir

I have not answered your interesting letter written some time since nor acknowledged the receipt of the interesting pamphlets accompanying it because I had hoped ere this to have seen you personally: on calling at your house in town some days ago you were away from home and since that I have been expecting to see you here almost daily.

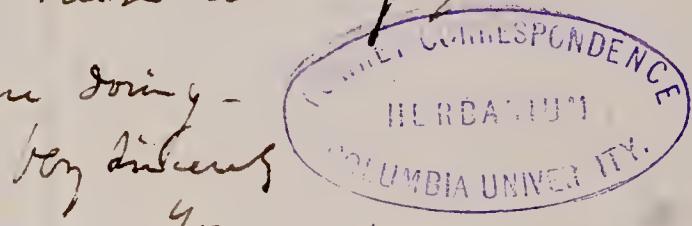
I was much pleased with your account of your visit to the mts and hope you will be able to dispatch the collector as you propose to secure some living as well as dried plants. During your absence I had Limnanthes Douglae very nicely in flower upon my rock-work but since almost destroyed by the frost - The seeds as you will probably recollect I am indebted to you.

Pray tell me whether Mr Mather - the Geologist of this district has passed through yet on his survey or whether we may yet expect to see him. He promised to call on me when

he came into this neighborhood.

I shall be very glad to have a perfect copy of Mr. Crooms paper when you can conveniently send it to me as well as your interesting account of new plants, which paper you promise me is your last note. Can you inform me who is the author of the papers on "American (Mexican) Antiquities" published lately in the Knickerbocker Magazine. I suppose they emanate from ~~a member~~ of your Lyceum of Nat. Hist.

Does the Horticultural Society get up nothing not even a ~~catalog~~ this season? or do you consider the whole affair ad.休
If on the shelf till a more propitious age comes round?
I am very glad to hear that Dr. Gray's prospects of ~~success~~ are much increased. By the way you may tell the Dr. that I am greatly obliged to him for his timely and very protracted call here when he visited New-England. Five o'clock A.M. is rather too early to call flowering for the presumption that folks in the country do rise early. However I hope to see the Dr. again before he sails. I presume you rec'd the basket of pericarpia &c which I sent to your house the day I called. Please write if you do not concur, and let me know what you are doing -



Very sincerely

Yours.

A. J. Downing



Dr. Torrey
Prof. of Botany & Chemistry
To the Morgan Co. - New York

Rec'd. No. 11th

Botanic Garden 2 Nov 1818
Newburgh 9th Nov 1818
CORRESPONDENCE
UNIVERSITY.

My dear Sir

I take shame to myself that I have now two unanswered letters from you. Your kindness will I am sure find an apology for me when I beg leave to remind you that this is our very busiest season in the nurseries and that an unusually busy sale has crowded almost every thing but my constant occupation out of my hands.

Allow me an apology for not returning to your house this evening on which I had the pleasure of taking tea with you. I found that I had introduced myself into so pleasant a party in Mercer St^t that it was impossible to leave before I thought you had retired. The next morning the unexpected arrival of a commission from the Public Library here to purchase 3 or 400 dollars worth of Books for the same unavoidably occupied the whole of my time so that I had no leisure to see you again as I ^{had} expected and intended to do.

The communication from the German Hort. Society of Grapes is quite new to me and equally ^{curious} indeed. I shall dress it up a little and send it as you suggest to the Boston Magazine. In Boston if it is not already known (which I much doubt) they will from their zeal in forcing soon give it a trial. Some of the Gentlemen there raise tons of the finest grapes under glass: and for the more ^{warm} in future time

northern latitude of Boston and lower temperature of that city it would
fail to surpass any other in the Union in that way, although as I
have recently heard Mr. Biddle Esq. has expended within a year or two past
upwards of \$20,000 in glass structures at Bristol N. J.

Pray tell me how your negotiations for my friend Baron Ledermann's
collection of minerals have ended. I must confess I should feel some regret
to hear that so fine a collection should be torn away to such
a backwoods sort of a state as we find Michigan yet to be. I
am surprised to hear from you how richly their university will be
endowed from the sale of lands and almost fear ~~it~~ will yet
rival or surpass the sister institution in the East. The idea of establishing
a fine botanic Garden is so tempting that one could be induced to go almost
to the Rocky Mts to see it handsomely done. I think I will speak to
the future Mrs D to whom you allude about it next spring!

I am picking up some materials for a 12mo vol which (D. V.) I
hope to write next winter on the beauty, utility & advantage of foreign
and indigenous forest trees & consider chiefly in relation to Landscape
Gardening and the improvement of Country Residences. There is a great
want of something in this way full in the country and great groping
in the dark in the absence of it. The Americans are just beginning to find
out that trees were made for something but to be cut down! If you
see anything in the way of books calculated to assist me pray oblige

me by laying violent hands on it. I cannot find a copy of London's *Abortion Britannicum* in this country.

Poor-Poor the Crown! Who does not lament his dreadful fate? Thus to be swept away amid the brightest prospects and most eager hopes and with his whole family is really enough to make us all sorrow. His intimate friend Mr Donaldson was here when the news arrived of the loss of the Home and appears to regret it most deeply.

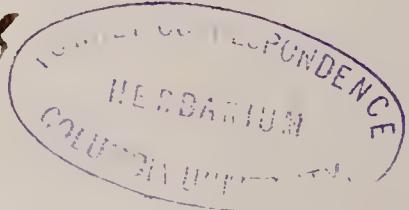
I shall be down probably toward the last of the month and hope it will not be too late then for a peep at the rare Books Dr Gray has just rec'd from London. I am glad to hear you think the Dr will go out in the Frigates. If they are as long in returning as is going out other reports scientific & historical will be for the benefit of the next generation.

You did not lend me the 2nd part of Hooker's *Icones plantarum*. I shall be very much pleased to see the newly rec'd nos of his Bot. Miscellany or anything else which you may think interesting. Will you have the goodness to remember some suitable time that I have an ambition to become a member of your Lyceum. Did your Hort Society succeed in making a new batch of officers the year or is it 'dead and gone' soon? I shall be much pleased to hear from you again and remain

P. S. A little basket accompanies this
nug to convey to you Dr Damberry's discourse.
of the other less literary contents speak not.

I am making ^{an} extensive plantation of grapes & other fine fruits in a beautiful warm valley about half way up the Fishkill mth from whence I hope at some future time to send you many a fine basket. Hale

Yours most sincerely
A. J. Downing



Dr. John Forney
Professor of Botany & Chemistry
30 Bedford St.
N.Y.

Newburgh 29th June 1838

My dear Sir

I wrote you from Northampton Mass, about 12 days since enclosing the 'constitution' &c of our Hort Society which you were to get this the 29th. I then intended to call & see you as I came thro New York but as I was obliged to be here on Tuesday last I had necearily to come directly thro N.Y. without stopping - and was therefore prevented that pleasure.

I hope the little pamphlet containing the constitution &c is ready or nearly so: you know they are to be distributed in the different counties & we ought to do it soon in order to get an accession of members before the great exhibition in Autumn.

I have recently had the honor of being elected a corresponding member of the Massachusetts Hort Soc. The diploma which they have sent me is very pretty and will a variation in the vignette might serve as a model for ours. It is a lithograph & I think a consideration that would be at once the cheapest & best style for our diploma: - introducing as I suggested the view of the valley of the Hudson in the distance with a foreground of fruit. &

Flowers Will

I received your apolgy for the 7th of June on my return. We were very sorry not to see you & will be extremely happy to receive a visit from you at any time. Will you not be in Fishkill soon?

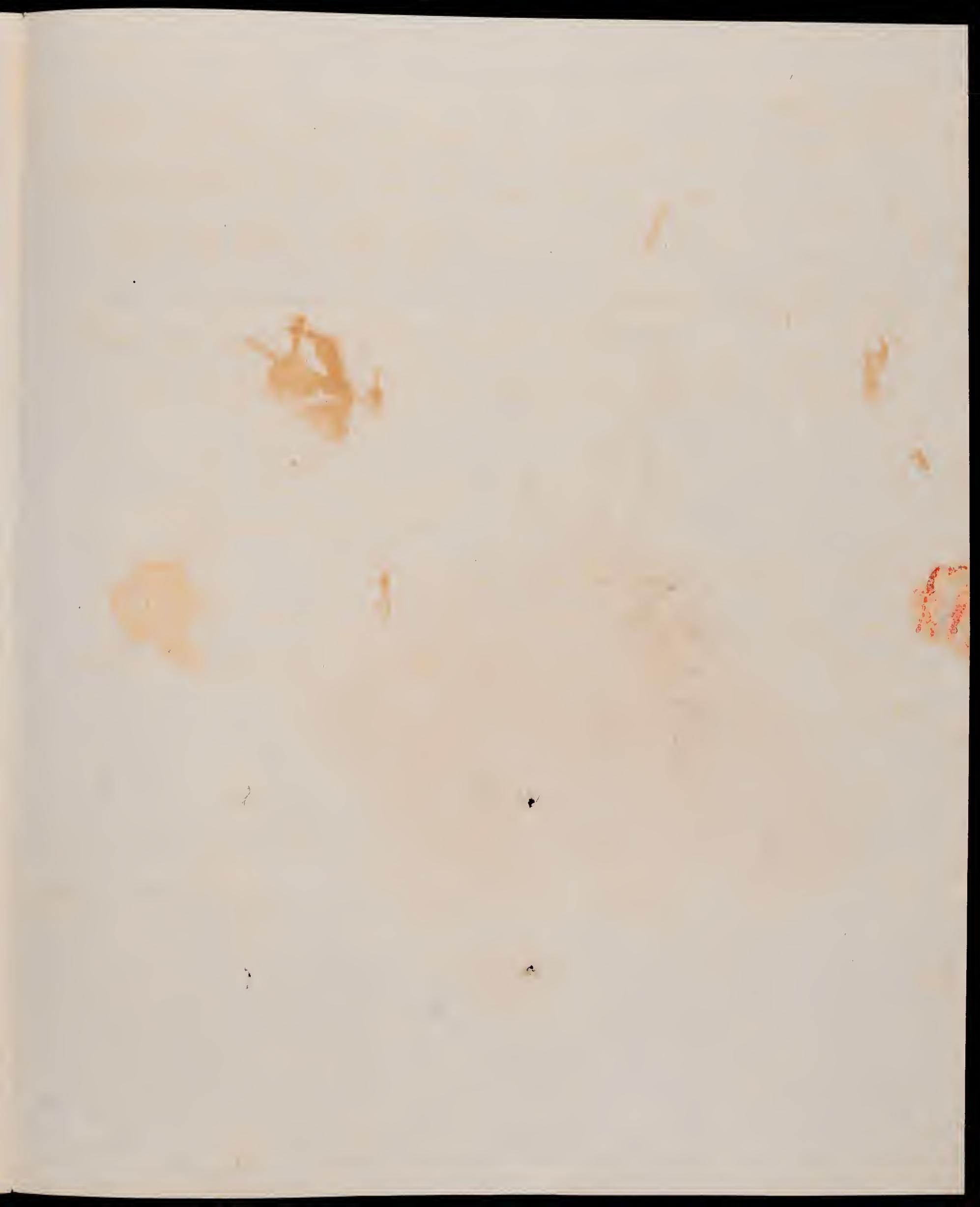
I send you a little basket of cherries with my regards to Mrs. T. Let me hear from you soon & believe me

Very truly
Young

A. J. Downing

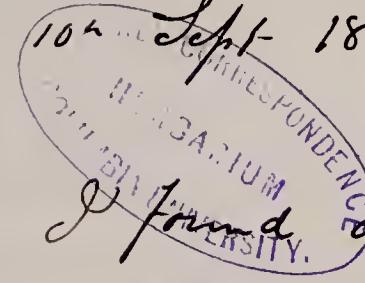
P.S. I should like to be a member of your Lyceum of Nat History. If it is practicable will you propose me? What has Dr. Bakay decided the Plum-knob insect to be?





Dr. Wherry
Professor of Chemistry & Botany
Duke of Prince & Mc Dougall St.
New York

Botanic Garden & Nurseries
Newburgh 10th Sept 1838.



My dear Sir

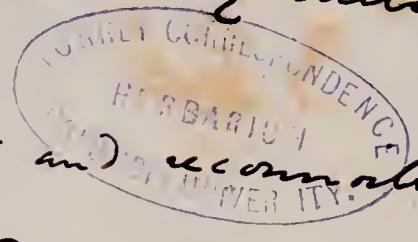
On my return home I found a letter awaiting

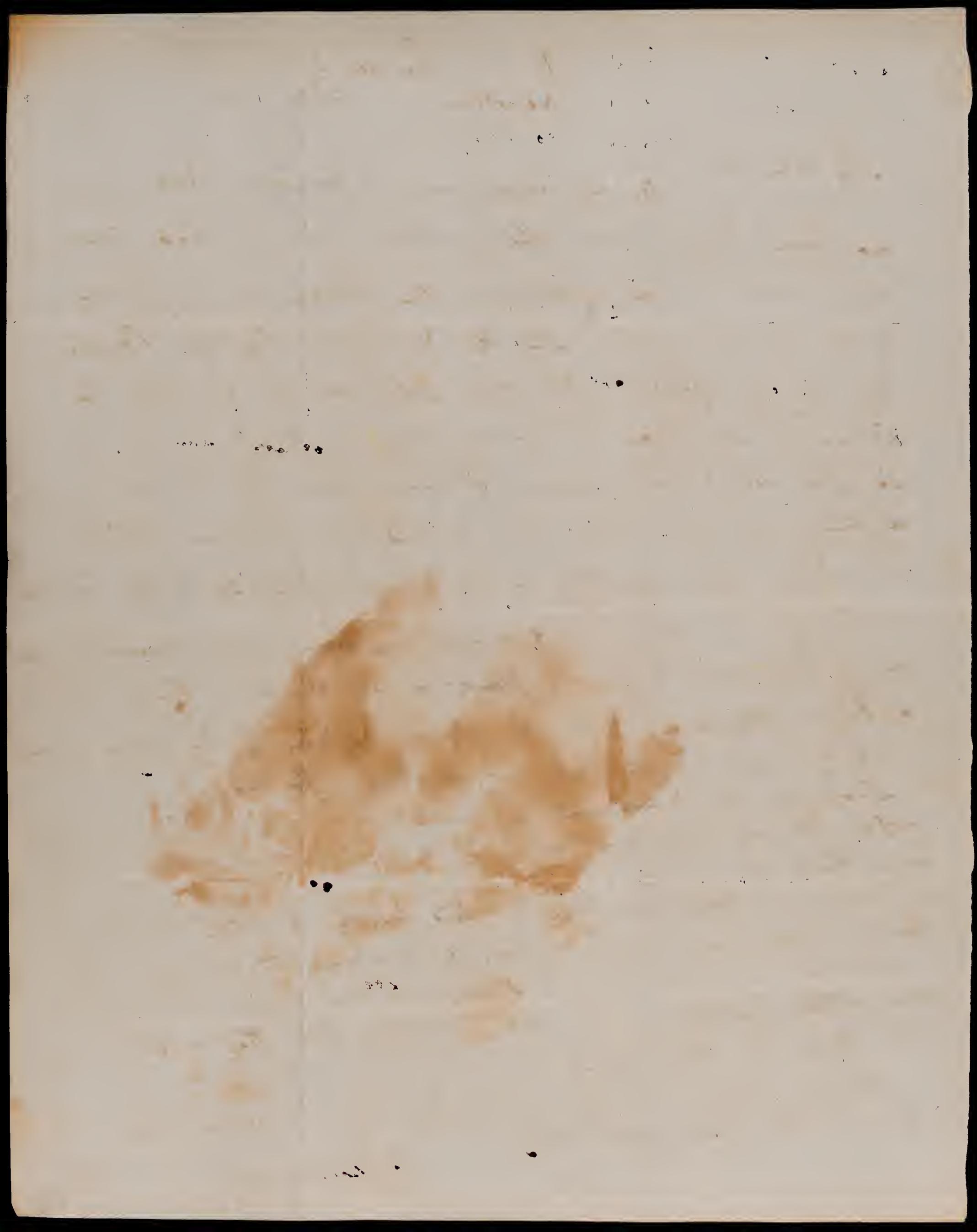
me from Judge Baile which stated that he had advertised the exhibition in his Cultivator, the Albany Daily papers & it had been copied into the N.Y. daily Express. Coupling this with the fact of the interest felt in his quarter he advised ^{us} by all means to go on and make the best of it. So upon second consideration I have written the advertisement & think we had better push matters on as fast as possible. The Judge writes me that he can furnish from 30 to 40 varieties of fruit! We can certainly muster as many more, Kneech will send us down some of his fine plants & we shall I think get a large collection from the various sections of the river exclusive of N.Y.-which I hope will do something for us. Look over the advertisement and make such alterations as you think proper. You had probably advertised in 2 of the Dailies and as often as you think we can afford.

I believe I told you that I had written a letter to George Norton telling him to behave himself & receive the invitation fees for us. This was 10 days ago & I fancy he has taken my advice as ~~the other~~ gentlemen have since told me that they called & paid him which he took without grumbling!

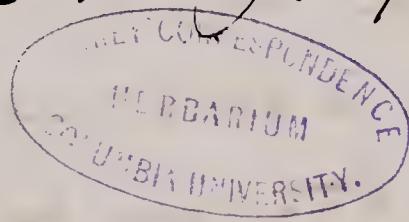
I shall probably come down on Monday next and communicate for the appointment among you. Vale.

A. J. Downing





Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh 11th May 1839



My dear Sir

Your ample package of Botanical journals
and pamphlets reached me this morning you left for which
many thanks. Some one had mentioned that you were to
leave N. York for a professorship at Princeton which I much
regretted to hear: but as you say nothing of it in your note
^{return to}
I hope you will not find it to your advantage to leave New York.

Last evening I sent you down a small basket of flowers
recently collected among them the Dble Cherry &c. I have 4 so-called
species? of Calycanthus here of which 3 being in flower I sent
you specimen. Pray let me know what you make of them. Crotonia
paniflora which you kindly sent me last summer is a pot is
growing nicely but shows no symptoms of a fluorescence. To a casual
viewer it looks not unlike our little dwarf cornel in foliage now.
I shall never forgive you till you procure me some good seeds
of the new evergreen tree Tonega. I am expecting every day from
England a full-rat head gardener & can promise to have
every thing new of this kind safely managed.

I am very glad to hear of Dr Gray's successful & pleasant tour.
If the master of Botany Robert Brown should come out so

give us a sight of him here in the Highlands. I think you will have to take him to the summit of the Catskills!

Dr. Beck & Norton are busy with our rocks & minerals. The ~~former~~ ^{latter} told me that you expect to explore the Drowned lands in this country soon and said that Dr. McMunn would gladly be your companion and guide.

I am as you may suppose very busily engaged this season between building my new house & superintending my gardens but shall be glad to hear from or see you as often as possible. It would give me pleasure to send you a basket of flowers weekly could you send a box to boat for them on a certain days.

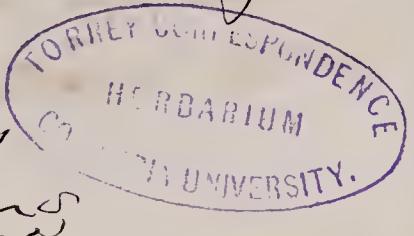
Apropos of building: When you will Dr. Gray will you bear me in mind and beg him to look for plaster busts of Linnaeus, Leprieur, Decandolle &c. I want either 2 or 4 to ornament the large square hall in my house. I do not mean to trouble Dr. to purchase & send them out for me as I suppose he has commissions enough already but only to send me word where they can be procured so that I can order them. A minute of this kind will reward him. The portrait of Mr. Nuttall that Dr. Mead once possessed I have now in good preservation. What was the name of his nephew who painted it?

I hope you will notice *Epimedium alpinum* a pretty little plant with red brown flowers. It grows well in the garden soil contrary to my expectations.

Hoping to see or hear from you soon I am

P. S. I believe the Hort. Association are to have an exhibition in Albany in May. What has become of Hogg and his garden.

Sincerely yours
A. J. Downing



Botanic Garden & Nurseries
New Haven, CONN. July 1839
NEW HAVEN HERBARIUM
COLLEGE OF NEW HAVEN UNIVERSITY.

My dear Sir

I received with great pleasure
the letter from Col. Votter & his work by
the last mail box for which accept my
sincere thanks. I have not the least doubt
of the truth of his observation respecting the
use of ^{our} hydraulic cement for brick stucco.

In to day's box (about last wednesday) I send
a branch of the Pear tree as attacked by
that most destructive & fatal disease the
fire blight - instantaneous in its operation &
which has so long baffled all horticultural
skill. I believe it to be the attack of some
minute insect: and by you very carefully
examined the branch in every part with the microscope
to see if it can be detected. A knowledge of
the cause & a remedy for the evil would be
of vast benefit to all cultivators.

I have told the carrier of the box when to leave
it in the village near the boat so that I can
receive it without trouble.

I have never heard of the cabbage for oil
but am very glad to get seeds which I will

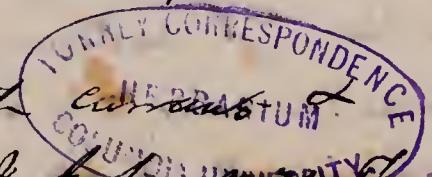
both distribute & try myself next season.

I lately received from Philadelphia some plants of our splendid aquatic Nelumbium luteum which I have so long endeavored to get. They are planted in my pond, where I hope they will flourish.

I shall probably make a short visit to Philadelphia after a week or two. Will you give me a note to Mr Nuttall or some other gentleman who will show me to the Academy of Sciences there?

With much regard.

A. J. Downing



I send a few white Dutch early Cherry plums which I hope will prove to be able to find the natural prof-

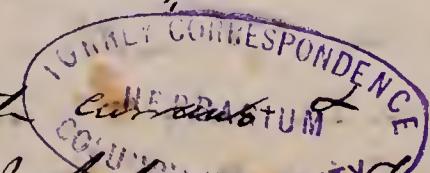
both distributed & try myself next season.

I lately received from Philadelphia some plants of our splendid aquatic Nelumbium buleum which I have so long endeavored to get. They are planted in my pond where I hope they will flourish.

I shall probably make a short visit to Philadelphia after a week or two. Will you give me a note to Mr Nuttall or some other gentleman who will show me to the Academy of Sciences there?

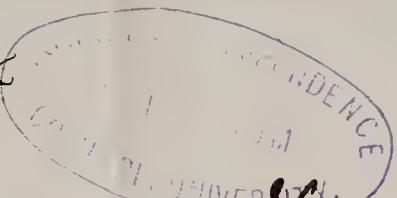
With much regard,

A. J. Downing

I send a few white Dutch early Cherry plums which I hope will be able to find the natural pro-

perty of

1862. 10. 20.

Rec'd Aug 1: 20th



Newbern 15th Aug 1861

My dear Sir

You are my greatly obliged to Dr Gray and yourself for the roots from North Carolina which we have placed in such a situation as we think will enable us to afford you flowers another season for your herbaria.

A friend of mine now at Newbern, Major Belknap who commands in Florida, thinks he can procure me a parcel of seeds and plants of the Torrey a and as he has the greatest possible facilities for the purpose I have strong hopes of getting a supply. Has Mr Cary tested their hardiness in our climate? This is an important question: and I am strongly inclined to think it will prove a hardy tree here.

I supposed you were at Princeton yet as I have enquired of Mr Wiley whenever in town without hearing of you. I mention with this the Botanical journals which you were so kind as to loan me of which should have been sent sooner had I known of your family being at home.

I am sorry to say that my Gymnocladus has not afforded me any specimens this year - nor has the Uplands tree, a much larger one, borne any. -

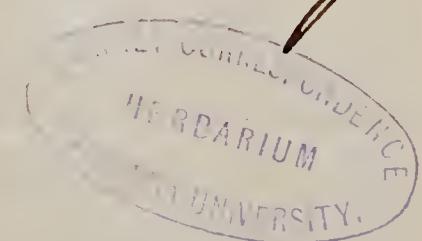
There are some very old trees on the Rosack estate at
Hyde Park which fruit abundantly every year
and from which I have no doubt specimens of
the fruit may be obtained. I may visit them
in Sept: and will bring some away for you
if you wish it.

You have not paid us a visit yet this season!
and we shall expect to see you the first leisure
day. In the little basket accompanying you will find
a few flowers for Mrs. T.'s vase:—among them
are one or two flowers of the Dahlia in their normal
state ^{to} which I beg you to give a proper degree
of admiration — I have never seen so fine
an example before in the Dahlia. With kind remembrances
to your family

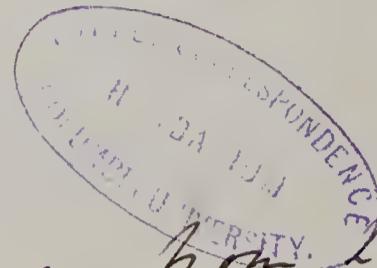
Believe me very cordially

Yours

A. J. Downing



Newburgh 8- Oct 1862



My dear Dr Torrey

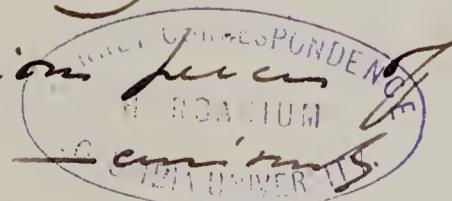
Absence from home has prevented
my giving an earlier reply to the letter I had the
pleasure of receiving from you by Mr. Webster. I have
again paid my respects for you in New York this
summer, in the hope of getting a sight of you
again, but I have not had that good fortune.
I have to regret very much that you have gone from
New York as will you have departed almost all my
botanical acquaintances there ~~in~~ and Dr. Gray too!
what a scattering desert! I passed your McDougal
street house when I have passed so many pleasant
hours & had almost a mind to go in & see what
sort of people lived in it - whether the herbarium
was filled with sage and lavender!

You last bid me to hope that we might have the pleasure of seeing you here this fall. Cannot you steal away with Mr. J. for a few days in this delightful autumn weather? the mountains in the autumn being as truly magnificent now even through the softening, hazy atmosphere.

I hope Dr Gray will endeavor to raise up a real
Botanic Garden at Cambridge worthy of the University:
The bare possession of such a garden will doubtless
well give a character to the institution & reflect
great credit on him. I have understood that
there is no want of funds.

I beg you to let me know what you are
doing & when you expect to return to New York
for the winter — how you like Princeton — and
whether you still think of building yourself a
home there. At the very first opportunity I shall
certainly come to see you there.

My little work on "Cottage Residences" has exceeded
beyond my expectation, and altho' it is chiefly
of a suggestive character I trust it may do some
little towards awaking a better taste in our
rural homes. I have really had quite a business "on
the European plan" and at nearly European prices this
summer in professional landscape gardening.

I should like to show you some curious pieces
antiquities which I have in my house — 
carved chain 200 years old — a chair worn from
England etc. Can't I keep you here for a few
days. Mr Downing joins me in the kindest expressions of
regard to Mr Toney & yourself and I am ever truly yours

H. D. Downing

Newbury 3^d Dec 1863

Dr Toney

My dear Sir



Mr Watsrd has kindly offered to be the bearer of a few words which I am very glad to send you by so good an opportunity.

I am truly sorry that, now you are settled at Princeton, we see so little of each other and I beg to bespeak in advance a visit from yourself and Mrs Toney the first leisure time you have next summer or autumn. We shall be glad to have a quiet visit from you at any time when you could most enjoy it. — only letting us know a few days in advance, that we (who are also sometimes busy) may be at home to receive you.

When you can spare a few moments I would be glad to have a word from you by mail saying (if you know) precisely whereabouts in Florida the Toneya can be obtained. I want my much

to get a few more via young plants - and Col
Belknap an especial friend of mine who has
command of a regiment. Then will make every
exertion to procure them if I can give him
precise information as to the locality.

Mr London in a late letter says that there is
still much dispute in England respecting the species
of our American Elms: and he is very anxious that
I should next send him a plant of each
"will. & t. names which will be given them by Drs Torrey
& Gray: for notwithstanding that these gentlemen sent
me specimens, and state I have examined what are
called American Elms in both British & French gardens,
I am by no means satisfied that I am right respecting
them. Therefore do not send me any until you can send
all the ~~two~~ kinds correctly named by Drs T. & G."

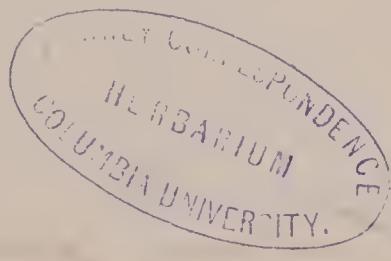
Professor Lindley seems engaged late & late in the
"Gardener's Chronicle" the best of the English Gardening newspapers.
He edits it with ability but not with the best taste as it seems
to me.

Mr Downing joins me in the kind & appearance of
regard to Mrs Torrey & your daughter & I remain
With much esteem Yours

A. S. Downing



Highland Gardens
Newbury N.Y. Jan 26th 7



My dear Sir

I hope this favour which I am about to ask of you will not be too heavy a tax for I sit down with a sort of old-new pleasure ~~with~~^{from} the feeling that our lines cross each other again, as they used to do so often many years ago.

You know my hobby is horticulture, and I am just now interested in the pear tree. This tree ^{as is well known} does not usually thrive & bear fine fruit easily near the sea coast - but I have lately met with an instance, that puzzles me, of extraordinary vigour & productivity in the gardens at Provincetown, Mass. quite on the sea & with no apparent reason for the exception.

I suspect strongly however that there is something in the soil which will account for it. & I have accordingly procured some which I send you herewith. Now the favour I desire to ask today is that if you

have him you will make a rough analysis
of this soil for me. I do not care for much
I would only like to know whether it con-
tains more or less of any one of the common
components than is usual in good soils.

I have a strong notion now that one
of the oxides of iron is very beneficial to
the pear. Perhaps this soil - which seems
most of a decayed rock or sand may contain
it.

If this is a troublesome matter or
costs you too much time pray give it the
go-by without the least hesitation. But
I will be glad to communicate in any way
you may point out if it comes within
the limits of your convenience.

I came within a hair's breadth as
an Irishman would say of being at Prince-
ton last fall though it kind in violation
of your friend Mr. Field. But just as
I was about starting I was forced to

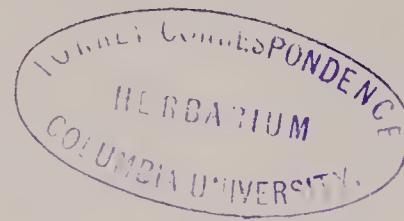
go to Boston or some time I had
to pay the pleasure.

I wish you would say to Mr. Field if
you see him, with my regards, that if
he has specimens of that pet apple
of his the "monmouth pippin" which
is unknown to me I would be greatly
obliged for a sight of one or two of
them with some account from him of
its history.

With much regard
Yours.

To:
Dr. Torrey

J. J. Downing



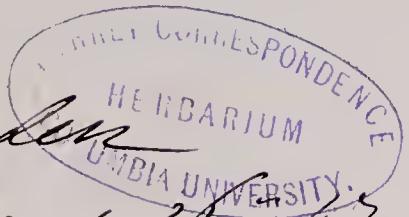
A. J. Downey

Highland London
Newbury March 10-47

My dear Sir

Thanks for your
kind letter. I shall
be most heartily glad
if you move back to
New York, for Princeton
is the Southern Antarctic
to me.

I am really much obli-
ged for your attention in
the matter of the analysis
of soil. All that I am
interested in knowing is
the per-cent-age of Oxide



of iron in it, and if you
can tell me that point
in the course of ten days
I shall be much grat-
ified.

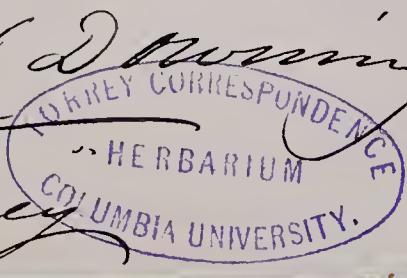
I do not know if you
see my Horticultural
Journal. I send you a
copy of the last no by
this mail. We print
3000 & it is increasing
every day & seems to
be doing much good
in exactly the right quar-
ter. As I never see
the proofs there are

Sometimes queer blunders
in the text which you
must pardon. If you
care to see it I will
send you the succeeding
nos.

I mean to notice your
Flora, as it deserves, in
this journal - which
will help its sale as the
review goes at once to
all the gardening readers
in the country.

With much esteem
Yours.

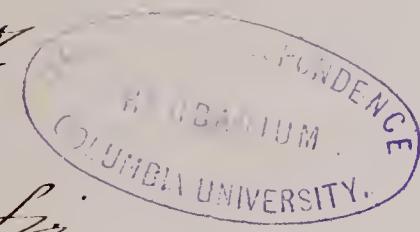
R. S. Darrow



To Dr. Torrey



Highland Garden
Newburgh April 1 1861



My dear Sir

I have been absent from home for two or three days or I would have replied to your kind letter at once.

I enclose you the little remaining portion of the soil. If you can get at the per centage of oxide of iron without much trouble I shall be really obliged ^{to you for the information} ~~to have it~~.

Have you ever heard of the ^{hardship of the} ~~Torrey~~ ^{tax} ~~of~~ ^{of the} ~~folia~~ here at the north. I mean to try my largest specimen (the one you gave me) out of doors next winter. I find that it is quite easily propagated from cuttings. I had left some young plants out in small pots till the ground was very severe frost in 1855 & they did not appear to suffer by it.

Mr. Downing bids to be kindly remembered by yourself & Mr. Torrey.

Very sincerely yours

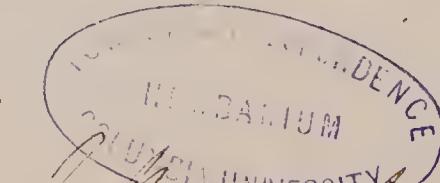
Dr. Torrey.

M. J. Downing





My dear Sir



in the accompanying basket (which
please examine) you will find a couple of drawings
of the Ceras. The drawing of the plant, which I
think were done, is executed by Mr. Hoyle the
Artist & is if you think it worth while, ready
for the engravers hands. The other is a sketch
roughly done by myself of the parts of the seeds
& which, if you can get copied in a better
manner by some botanical draughtsman it will
be well to do so in case you wish to use it.
I send a few of the seeds also for your exam-
ination - I find they vary very much as they grow
older.

Cannot I add to or revise the paper in some
way as it was very hasty written? I send down
the no. of Hooker which has the fig & des. of C. rev
in order that you may see how incomplete it is.

If you have any thing for me to look over in
the scientific way. I shall be most happy to ^{see it} ~~see it~~
for a day or two. I did not have the pleasure ^{of} ~~of~~
seeing Dr. Gay when I was in town. Pray unit
me in something about the S. S. Expedition.

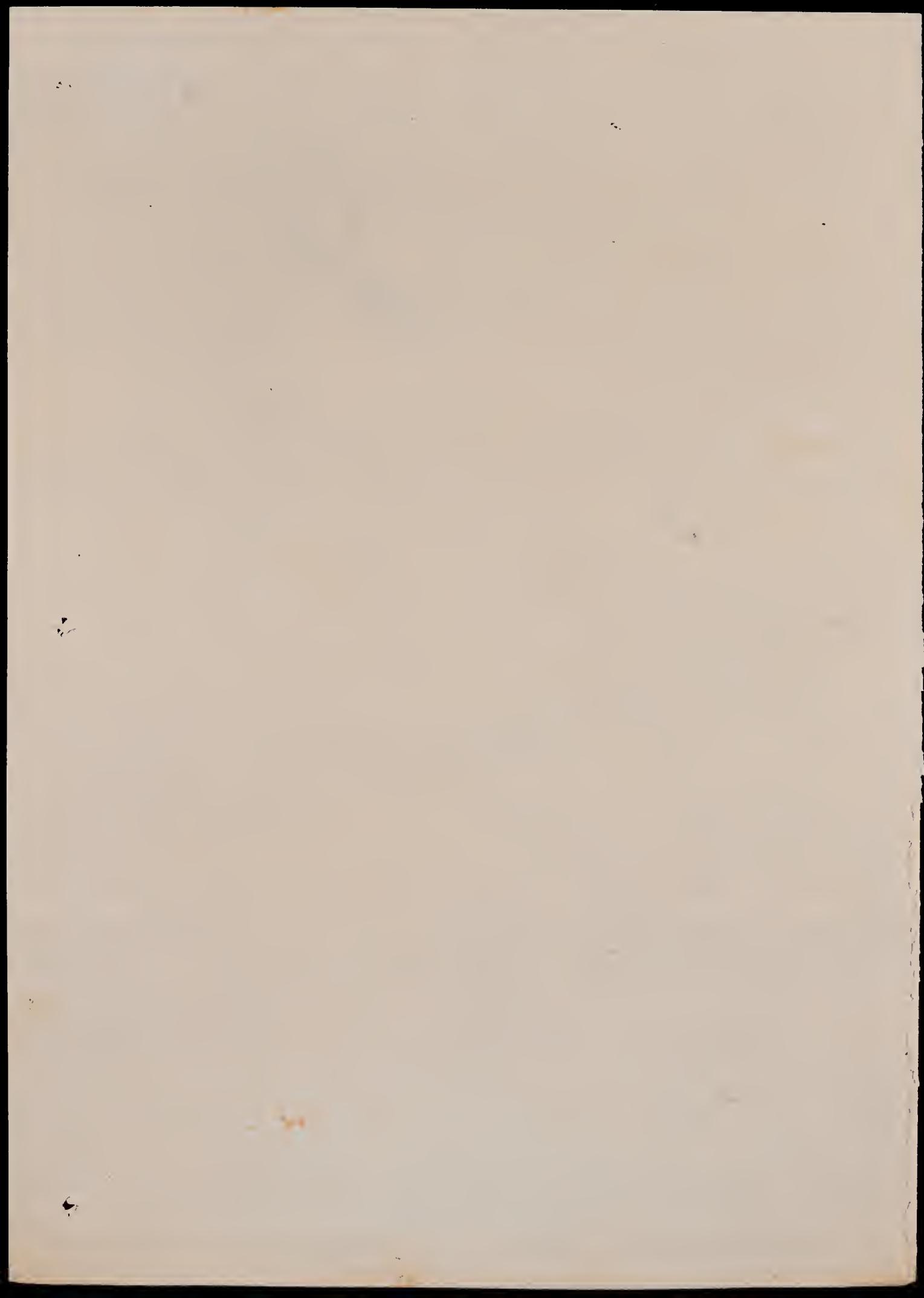
What has Mr. Nutall brought home in plants or news?
Botanic Garden & Museum

I have sincerely yours

27th Oct.

N.B. Please insert the entries ^a from Richard
in Pt 2^d. pg 4 of the drawings

J. J. Downing



180.
Newburgh Thursday afternoon

(1836?)

My dear Sir

The Madison (our regular mail boat) went off at an earlier hour than usual yesterday which prevented me from sending the box as I wished to do.

I have looked around to find a good another specimen of the Pear blight unsatisfactorily to day but will be able to send you a fresh specimen soon without doubt as the attacks are always prevalent during hot weather.

I lost the key of our paddock so that I have substituted another & accordingly send the key enclosed. My visit to Phil^a is postponed until September when I will gladly avail myself of the introductory notes you kindly offer.

Our next Hort. Exhib. is to be at Vicks' Fader on the 12th - I will send you one of the circulars in a day or two. I have much more to say but it is near 5 o'clock and to boat work. Kind regards to Mrs T - let me see you when you come up this river again.

Yours very truly
A. J. D.



